State of public education: 1 doctor per 90,000 studes

Story on PAGE A2

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POTTER/ A18

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2 policemen repel 20 NPA attackers

Rebels storm Eastern Samar town; 4 wounded

By Cyrain Cabueñas
PDI Visayas Bureau

(Editor's Note: Following is the PDI correspondent's account of the NPA attack on Quinapondan yesterday morning. The correspondent has served as the town's parish priest for the past two years.)

QUINAPONDAN, Eastern Samar—It was a Sunday that the Catholic Church commemorated for the "Solemnity of the Body and Blood of Christ," but it turned violent for this quiet town, 100 km from the capital of Borongan.

Blood soaked the small street in front of the police station following a two-hour exchange of gunfire between some 20 fully armed communist rebels in fatigue uniforms and two policemen who stood their ground and repelled the attackers.

Wounded were the town's police chief and at least three rebels.

The New People's Army (NPA) guerrillas launched their attack just as most of the local residents, numbering at least 200, were inside the St. Nicolas Tolentino Parish Church attending the Mass that I was officiating.

About 20 rebels stormed the police station, located just in front of the church, at around 6:45 a.m., as I was giving Holy Communion.

The attackers belonged to a contingent of at least 100 rebels—some of them young women and others aged about 15 years old—who descended from the mountains into this town yesterday.

While the police station was under attack, two NPA groups barricaded the main highway. Another surrounded the house of the town mayor, while the rest ransacked the homes of the policemen.

The town has 11 policemen, but only their leader, Chief Insp. Cayetano Gannaban, and two others—PO1 Raul

2 POLICEMEN/ A17

MILF leader denies links to JI, slams terrorism

By Gil C. Cabacungan Jr.

FOR the first time, the founder of the Moro Islamic Liberation Front has categorically denied any links to the Jemaah Islamiyah terror group. Malacañang hailed the move as a crucial step toward the resumption of the peace talks.

MILF chair Salamat Hashim also said he was committed to reviving stalled peace talks with the government.

Salamat said terrorism was "anathema to the teachings of Islam."

"To stress seriously this point; I hereby reiterate our condemnation and abhorrence of terrorist tendencies," he said. "Consequently, we reject and deny any link with terrorist organizations or activities in this part of the Asian region, particularly in South Philippines, and elsewhere in the world."

Presidential spokesperson Ignacio Bunye said Salamat's statement was a "good signal" the MILF was prepared to talk peace, but stressed government would not let down its guard against possible attacks.

Peace panel adviser Renato de Villa told reporters: "The good news is we're moving toward peace." A statement was to be issued later, he said.

Presidential adviser Eduardo Ermita, chair of the government peace panel, hailed the statement. "We welcome the fact that the MILF chairman has himself rejected terror and all acts of terrorism as a means to resolve differences."

Salamat's remarks were an "important confidence-building measure that fulfills one of the conditions of President Macapagal-Arroyo for peace negotiations to move forward," Ermita said, but he also asked Salamat to take the next step.

"We urge the MILF chair to make an unequivocal statement affirming his agreement to such a permanent ceasefire and the immediate start of talks toward an FPA (final peace agreement); and that he would lead the MILF peace panel personally," Ermita said.

While lower-ranking MILF officials have already denied any terror links, the President had called on the MILF chief to categorically denounce terrorism and surrender those accused of bombings if stalled peace talks were to resume.

But Salamat's peace overture was

MILF/ A18

RELATIVES and friends of Mayor Guerrero Zaragoza, who was assassinated by suspected communist rebels, weep as his body lies at the Zaragoza College in Tayug, Pangasinan.

RAY B. ZAMBRANO/PDI NORTHERN LUZON BUREAU

Reds gun down Pangasinan mayor

By Yolanda Sotelo-Fuertes
PDI Northern Luzon Bureau

TAYUG, Pangasinan—As he was leaving a cockpit arena, Mayor Guerrero Zaragoza was gunned down by suspected members of the communist New People's Army on Sunday, police said.

Wilfredo Hidalgo, the cockpit's caretaker, was also killed in the attack. Seven others were wounded.

Zaragoza, 61, suffered two bullet wounds in the left eye and abdomen, according to Chief Insp. Raymond Gilbert Lozano, the town's police chief. The mayor died while being taken to the Eastern Pangasinan District Hospital.

Lozano said Zaragoza and his men were in the Tayug Coliseum in Barangay Toketec where the mayor sponsored a gamecock derby. They were the last people to leave the cockpit at 2:45 a.m. because Zaragoza supervised the distribution of salaries of the arena's workers.

Lozano said the cockpit's steel gate and fence were riddled with at least 60 bullet holes from M-16 Armalite and Carbine rifles.

Supt. Rayland Malenab, chief of the Pangasinan police intelligence division, said the attack was "most probably the handiwork of the New People's Army."

REDS/ A17

Media urged: Focus on faces of evacuees, not just figures

By Volt Contreras

MUSLIM and Christian volunteers huddled together, repacking relief rations. Teenage girls breaking into giggling fits, despite cramped conditions. Small children playing and singing.

Life in Mindanao's refugee camps is hard, but every day is testimony to the resilience of the human spirit.

"The evacuation centers are the most blatant consequence of the un-peace in Mindanao, and behind the numbers and statistics are faces and unique lives," Social Welfare Secretary Corazon "Dinky" Soliman told the INQUIRER.

"The media tend to focus only on the body count," Soliman lamented. But the true story of the evacuation centers won't be complete without reporting how evacuees help themselves, she said. The Department of Social Welfare and Development has also been looking after the evacuees with relative consistency, cultural sensitivity, and the initiative to make the most of every lull in the fighting.

The aim of the refugee camps, she said, was to make life "at least 75 percent normal," and the key has been to stick to "doable" plans.

Thus, providing refugees with dried fish and mongo instead of the usual noodles and sardines is already considered an achievement—especially if the new menu is courtesy

MEDIA/ A18

Church says bishop obliged to support child

By Blanche S. Rivera

THE CATHOLIC Church will compel former Antipolo Bishop Crisostomo Yalung to support his alleged second child by his girlfriend.

That is, if the prelate admits that the child is his or medical tests prove that the child was sired by the bishop.

"It's only a matter of justice. A father is bound to support his child. That is an obligation before God and man," said Fr. James Reuter, head of the Catholic Church's National Mass Media Office.

Reuter told the INQUIRER in a recent phone

CHURCH/ A17

REALITY CHECK

Longer gov't drive vs drug rings seen

**By Gil C. Cabacungan Jr.
and Christine O. Avendaño**

AFTER the hoopla, reality is setting in.

Ninety days may not be enough for the government's renewed anti-drug campaign to make a dent on the illegal drug trade, presidential spokesperson Ignacio Bunye said yesterday.

It was President Macapagal-Arroyo who gave the Philippine Drug Enforcement Agency (PDEA) on Wednesday three months to crack down on local and international drug syndicates. The PDEA vowed to neutralize 62 drug syndicates and to dismantle at least 60 marijuana plantations during the period.

In an interview with RMN yesterday, however, Bunye said that the government would need a more intensified campaign that would take "a longer time" to carry out because of the magnitude of the country's drug problem. An estimated 3.5 million to 9 million Filipinos are said to be drug users.

Bunye, nevertheless, expressed optimism that the "Four Aces" would deliver results by pooling together their knowledge and experience in going after local drug traffickers and international drug syndicates.

The Four Aces refer to Sen. Robert Barbers, former Manila Mayor Alfredo Lim, retired Col. Rey Jaylo, and retired Maj. Lucio Margal-

LONGER/ A20

SKY SPARKLERS
People watch the fireworks competition beside the monument of Rajah Sulaiman, one of Manila's ancient rulers, on Saturday as part of the city's celebration of Araw ng Maynila tomorrow.

AP

WEATHER FORECAST

FORECAST: Southern Luzon, Visayas and Mindanao will experience mostly cloudy skies with scattered rainshowers and thunderstorms. The rest of the country will have partly cloudy to cloudy skies with isolated rainshowers and thunderstorms.

SOURCE: PAGASA

COMPILED BY: RAY LEYESA, PDI RESEARCH/06/23/03

E-mail: pr_news@inquirer.com.ph

Second FRONTPAGE

Metro Manila	Partly Cloudy	Iloilo/Bacolod	Cloudy with Rains
Baguio	Partly Cloudy	Roxas	Cloudy with Rains
Tuguegarao	Partly Cloudy	Cebu	Cloudy with Rains
Laoag	Partly Cloudy	Tacloban	Cloudy with Rains
Clark Zone	Partly Cloudy	Gen. Santos	Cloudy with Rains
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Legazpi	Cloudy with Rains	Cagayan de Oro	Cloudy with Rains
Calapan	Cloudy with Rains	Davao	Cloudy with Rains

State of public education: 1 doctor per 90,000 studes

By Blanche S. Rivera

DESKS, books, classrooms and teachers are not the only urgent requirements of children in public schools today.

The Department of Education's health officer said government schools suffered as well from a severe lack of doctors, nurses and dentists.

A glance at current statistics drives home the disheartening point:

There's only one nurse for every 4,000 students, when the ideal ratio is one for every 2,000.

In fact, DepEd health division chief Maria Corazon Dumlao said, a single nurse had the huge responsibility of monitoring the health of schoolchildren in three districts, with each district consisting of around 20 schools.

There's also only one dentist for every 25,000 children. This is especially alarming, since dental caries continues to be the top ailment of students in public schools, many of whom are also malnourished and sickly.

Speaking of which, there's only one doctor for every 90,000 of them.

In the very least, the government needs twice as many school nurses as it has today, 1,177 dentists immediately, and as many doctors as it would take—possibly even part-time, preferably as volunteers—to serve students numbering in the millions and growing.

Population growth

Government officials attribute annual enrollment growth directly to population increase.

"We have 19 million students (at the latest count)... but we cannot hire enough (medical) people. We have to make do with limited available resources," Dumlao said during a recent health forum at Annabel's restaurant in Quezon City.

Certainly, Dumlao stressed, DepEd did not have enough personnel items to hire doctors, nurses and dentists.

She said some health workers already at work in public schools were employed by the local government units.

But Luz Revita Cruz, president of the Philippine Academy of Physicians in School Health, said even some private schools did not have a health program.

Cruz said parents should consider this as one of the most important factors in choosing where to enroll their kids.

Only a tenth of the country's student population are enrolled in private schools. There has been an exodus to public schools in recent years due to the rising cost of education in private institutions.

120 per class

The immediately apparent results in many government schools are extremely large classes of reportedly up to 120 pupils, and an acute shortage of school buildings.

Late last week, the cash-strapped government announced it was set to ask Overseas Filipino Workers to help build 10,000 buildings that would house 20,000 classrooms, or half of the estimated shortage this year alone.

On Friday, Juan Miguel Luz, DepEd undersecretary for finance and administration, bared "innovative" methods that the department had taken to address the shortages on several levels.

Voucher system

The methods include a program in which a percentage of public school enrolees are diverted to private schools with the government shouldering a fixed portion of the expense via a "voucher" system.

Luz said the system was a less expensive way to keep the students in school than to construct new school buildings and hire new teachers.

Dumlao hopes there is a scheme just waiting to be fashioned to keep children in government schools healthy.

'Lumad' return to school with RP, Aussie help

OUT-OF-SCHOOL "lumad" or indigenous people in four villages of Davao del Sur can now go back to school via Tribal Learning Centres (TLCs) built through a joint education project of the Philippine and Australian governments.

According to Elah Marie Abangan, communications officer of the Philippines-Australia Basic Education Assistance for Mindanao (BEAM) project, the centers will provide early childhood education, elementary education, functional literacy and livelihood enterprise training.

The TLCs are located in barangays Demoloc and Little Baguio in Malita town, and North Lamidan and Baluntaya in Don Marcelino.

BEAM, a five-year initiative under Australia's Development Cooperation Program in the Philippines, aims to improve the quality of basic education in Regions 11 and 12, and the Autonomous Region in Muslim Mindanao.

It is jointly funded by the Philippine government and the Australian Agency for International Development (AusAID).

"Providing access to and improving basic education is a major component of the Development Cooperation Program between the Philippines and Australia," the Australian Embassy said in a statement.

BEAM was implemented in 2002, with activities spread over two phases until the year 2006.

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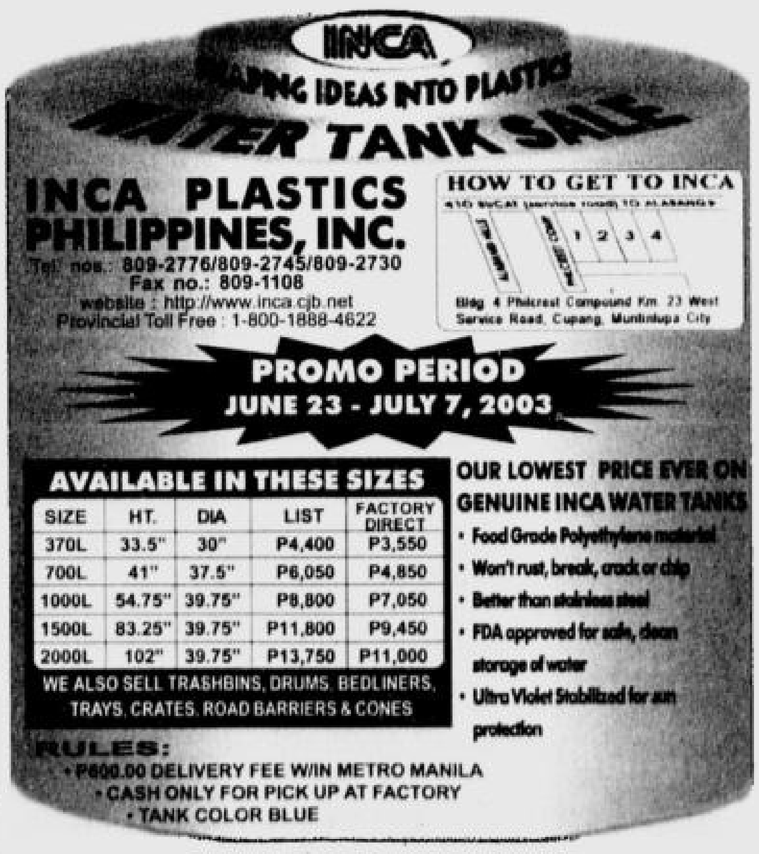

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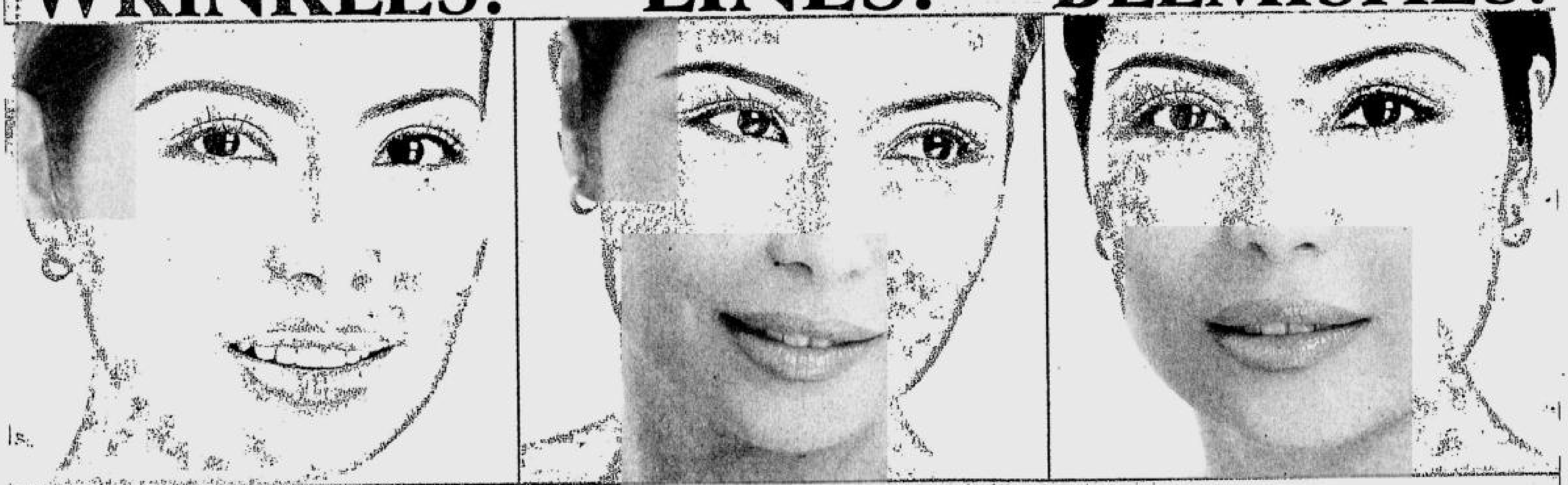

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What about us, flock of Bacani replacement asks

By Gia Damaso-Dumo
PDI Northern Luzon Bureau

SAN FERNANDO CITY—Clerics and parishioners in this city regret the loss of their bishop of 10 years, Bishop Antonio Tobias, who has been appointed temporary administrator of the Novaliches diocese while embattled Bishop Teodoro Bacani Jr. is on leave.

"I do not know the wisdom behind his (Tobias') selection. I do not know how Rome works. But what about us in the diocese (of San Fernando, La Union) who also have our own problems? We will be without a father," said Fr. Rodel Arellano, SVD.

Because of the shortage of priests in the diocese, even religious priests like him are often called upon to celebrate mass in the different diocesan parishes, Arellano said.

Pope John Paul II has appointed Tobias "apostolic administrator" for Novaliches while the Vatican investigates the sexual harassment case against Bacani.

Arellano said Tobias might have been chosen because the Church needed "someone who is not from the Metro Manila circle of bishops in order for him to remain disinterested."

Dr. Quentin Balcita, a parishioner and former city councilor who has lived through a succession of three bishops in San Fernando, said the appointment of Tobias was "surely a blessing," but the diocese would also "lose a great and effective bishop."

Doctorate in canon law

"Perhaps he was chosen for the job (in Novaliches) because he has a doctorate in canon law and has proven himself as a good leader not only of San Fernando but also of (Pagadian in) Mindanao," he said.

Balcita said Tobias has been doing his best to solve the diocese's problems, such as the shortage of priests. He said Tobias ordered a general reshuffle of diocesan priests in January and has been helping parish priests adjust to the changes.

"I pity Bishop Tobias in his new assignment. Why would they choose him? Don't they know that he has poor health?" a female parishioner said.

She said Tobias was often ill and frequently sought medical care from a local cardiologist.

A Catholic nun said Tobias sometimes took a respite when he was sick or under stress.

"He is hardworking and always keeps his appointments, especially his pastoral visits, even in the remote upland villages. His heart is with the poor. He is so well revered, even the priests from his former diocese (Pagadian) still come to visit him in La Union," she said.

But she said Tobias was the "right man for the job because he can handle the situation."

The nun recounted how the bishop had made himself unpopular by forbidding masses and the construction of a shrine at an apparition site in Agoo town in 1992.

The so-called Marian apparition claimed by Judiel Nieva had drawn throngs of devotees to Agoo. The Catholic Church later declared the phenomenon a hoax.

The nun said Tobias grew up in Manila and served as rector of San Carlos Seminary in Makati, thus making him more than familiar with the territory.

The INQUIRER tried to reach Tobias yesterday but was told the bishop had been out since 8 a.m. to say masses and make pastoral visits.

Bunye: GMA not for new system

PRESIDENTIAL spokesperson Ignacio Bunye said constitutional reform seeking to change the form of government from a presidential to a parliamentary system remained well below President Macapagal-Arroyo's list of priorities.

"While the President is not against or in favor of Charter change, she'd rather concentrate on political, economic and electoral reforms that need to be pushed," Bunye said in a radio interview yesterday.

Bunye maintained this remained the true position of the President on the issue notwithstanding statements made by the presidential adviser for special concerns Norberto Gonzales.

In a report in the INQUIRER the other day, Gonzales said he had been asked to focus this year on jump-starting the process for constitutional change.

Gonzales has reportedly organized a "study group" consisting of some 40 leading constitutionalists to come up with recommendations for specific constitutional amendments to be presented to Congress.

The Palace official said his target was to have the amendments passed and ratified in a plebiscite, in time for the May 2004 national elections, and a new Constitution to take effect in 2007.

Though she was not opposed to Charter change, the President was distancing herself from the debate, as she did not want to be perceived as wanting "to use it for her own ends," said Gonzales. *Gil C. Cabacungan*

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Bank had right to vote shares, says UOB

THE UNITED Overseas Bank Ltd. of Singapore said that the move by minority stockholders of its Philippine subsidiary to nullify the latter's May 30 annual stockholders' meeting had no legal basis.

Lawyer Alexander J. Poblador said in a statement that UOBL did not violate any laws in electing a new board for United Overseas Bank Phil. (UOBP) and voting all the outstanding common shares amounting to almost 20 million.

The minority stockholders led by the Farmix group of fertilizer tycoon Manuel Tankiansee last week asked the Makati trial court to void the May 30 board elections and to stop the new board from operating.

In the complaint filed on June 12, Tankiansee questioned the purchase of the minority shareholdings by the local bank's Singaporean parent, UOBL.

He asked the court to declare a status quo in the bank and sought a court-appointed receiver to take over.

Left out

The group of minority Filipino shareholders had been left out in an earlier out-of-court settlement between UOBL and a group of shareholders led by the family of the former finance secretary and now ambassador to Britain, Edgardo B. Espiritu.

Poblador said the legal dispute was actually "a fight between two former allies over how much each would get from a settlement with UOBL for control of the bank."

"Put another way, the issue is whether Farmix is entitled to more from the money paid by UOBL to the Espiritu Group, and not whether the Farmix Group owns more shares in the bank," he said.

The central bank has yet to issue its final approval on the acquired shares.

Poblador said UOBL made it of record at the stockholders' meeting that it would vote its shares—based on its shareholder list, including those acquired from the Espiritu group—without prejudice to the central bank's decision.

UOBL last year acquired a 33 percent stake in UOBP from Filipino shareholders of the former Westmont Bank for P1.6 billion, bringing the foreign bank's stake to 100 percent from 67 percent.

Bigger stake

Tankiansee, however, is claiming a bigger stake in the bank than was recognized under the agreement.

The private respondents of the complaint are Wee Cho Yaw, Chua Teng Hui Wee Ee Chong, Samuel Poon Hon Thang, Terence Ong Sea Eng, Wang Lian Khee, former Finance Secretary Roberto de Ocampo and UOBP corporate secretary Florentino Herrera III.

Tankiansee argued that the May 30 board elections for the bank should be declared null and void because his group could not vote the disputed shares equivalent to at least 5,199,728 common shares. *Elena R. Torrijos*

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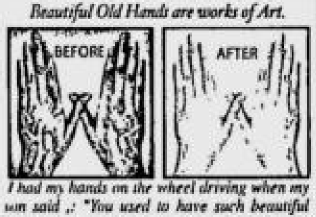

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Cojuangco family rift healing?

By Carlito Pablo

THIS MAY yet prove again that politics is the art of the possible.

Considered almost unthinkable, a reconciliation appears to be in the offing between the two feuding branches of the politically influential Cojuangco family with the prospective presidential candidacy of Eduardo "Danding" Cojuangco Jr. in 2004.

Cojuangco, a known crony of the late dictator Ferdinand Marcos, has been estranged for decades from his first cousins Jose "Peping" Cojuangco and former President Corazon "Cory" Aquino.

But there may now be a thaw, if Rep. Gilbert Teodoro is to be believed.

"To my knowledge, there is no more animosity," said Teodoro, Danding's nephew and protégé.

"If he (Danding) does decide to run, they will probably support him," he said.

Unanimity among the Cojuangcos in 2004 would send a "very potent and significant statement to the nation," the congressman from Tarlac said.

"This would demonstrate clearly the need for the country to put political divisiveness behind it for the sake of nation building," he said.

Teodoro did not volunteer these statements but was merely answering questions about whether Danding was expecting to get the support of his cousins, Peping Cojuangco and Mrs. Aquino.

Warming relations

A source in the extended Cojaungco family confirmed that relations between the cousins have warmed somewhat over the years.

"On a personal level, there are contacts," the source said. "I think a lot of the animosity before has disappeared."

Whether this would eventually translate into political support for Danding, he could not say, however.

But the source noted that it "should be important" for Danding to secure the backing of Peping, if not Mrs. Aquino herself.

"If you are a candidate, you would want to see that your relatives are with you," the source said.

Danding was a favored and powerful business crony of Marcos, the arch rival of the martyred Sen. Benigno Aquino Jr., Cory's late husband.

Mrs. Aquino was a key figure in the 1986 people power uprising that ousted Marcos and sent him into exile along with his key associates, Danding among them.

It has been said that Mrs. Aquino suspects Danding may have had some knowledge of Ninoy's assassination.

When Danding ran for president in 1992, Mrs. Aquino campaigned for her anointed candidate, Fidel Ramos, who won that contest.

In 1998, Danding backed actor Joseph Estrada while his cousins supported former Manila mayor Alfredo Lim.

Interviewed by mobile phone, Rep. Benigno "Noynoy" Aquino III, Mrs. Aquino's son, sounded bemused at the speculations concerning relations within the clan.

"That's something for our elders," he said.

"It's a generational matter," he added, saying he could not speak for his mother.

Asked if it was true the animosities have subsided, a still laughing Noynoy feigned innocence, saying: "I really don't know."

Hi, hello, bye

Commenting on Danding, he said: "I certainly have respect for him because he's an uncle. When I see him, it's hi, hello, goodbye, and that's it."

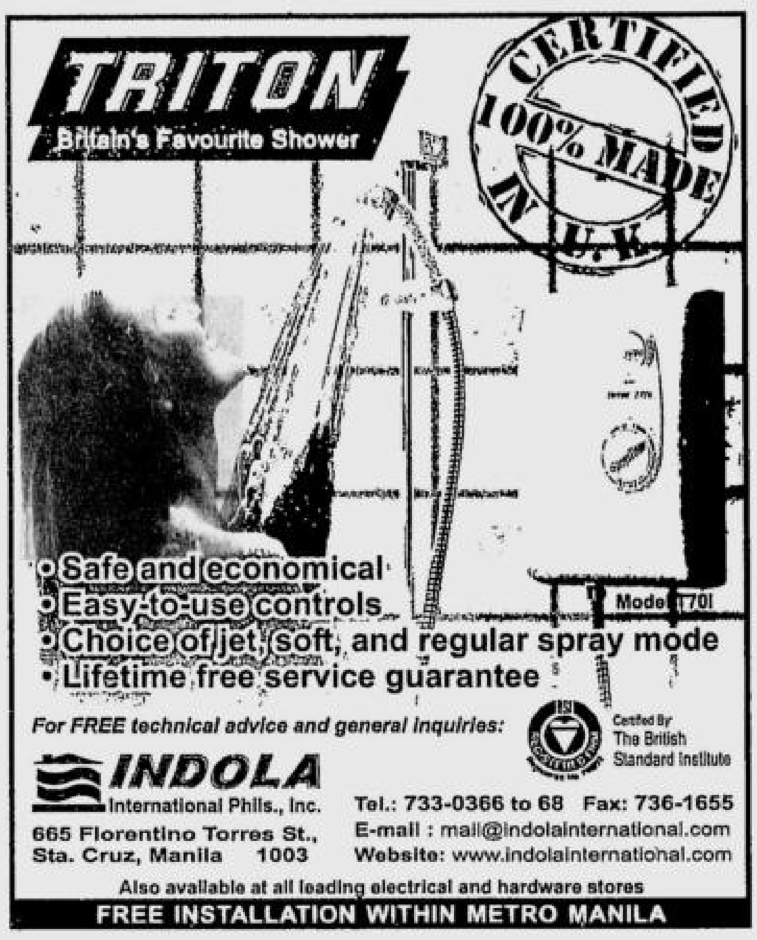
On his cousin and fellow Tarlac congressman Teodoro, he said: "We have common interests as far as Tarlac is concerned."

He described his relationship with Teodoro as "something professional."

Aquino noted that his uncle Peping Cojuangco was in the United States, where Danding coincidentally celebrated his 68th birthday on June 10.

It was not known if Peping met with Danding in the US, although House Speaker Jose de Venecia did.

Danding and De Venecia agreed to preserve the coaliton between the ruling Lakas-CMD and the former's Nationalist People's Coalition in the 2004 elections.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THE ONCE prominent Knecht mulls over his fate in his Camp Crame cell. After 10 months, he has not been given a "pee" test. ERIK ARAZAS

'60s society figure points out danger of anti-drug war

By Christian V. Esguerra

IS THE country turning into a police state?

A prominent Swiss-Filipino businessman warned this could be so, nearly 10 months after he was arrested and jailed on drug charges.

Rene Knecht, 66, said the government's current massive drive to root out illegal drugs could be used by the authorities and unscrupulous interested individuals against their enemies.

Just like what allegedly happened to him.

Knecht appealed to authorities to give him a drug test to prove he is no substance abuser.

"I have nothing to hide," he told the INQUIRER in an interview at his detention cell at Camp Crame, Quezon City, yesterday.

Asthmatic

"I have never taken shabu in my life. I cannot take anything because I'm asthmatic," said Knecht, a popular society figure in the 1960s and '70s.

Knecht, whose family owned former major cannery industry player Rose Packing Co. Inc., accused Cainta police of planting 13 grams of alleged shabu (methamphetamine hydrochloride) during two raids on his house in Victoria Valley, Antipolo, last September.

Rose Packing was second only to Del Monte Philippines in the food manufacturing business when its property and production facilities were attached by the PCIBank in the 1970s.

The courts, however, returned two parcels of property to Knecht more than 30 years later.

Knecht said police charged him and his godson Leo Aguinaldo, 40, with drug possession to pressure him into dropping his complaint against the Cainta municipal government for "squatting" on his 31,000-square-meter property.

The Comprehensive Dangerous Drugs Act, or Republic Act No. 9165, the basis for the ongoing government anti-drug campaign, may lay the groundwork for more "arbitrary" and "punitive" arrests, Knecht warned.

The Philippine National Police yesterday stood by the findings of the Cainta police investigators.

"We strictly observe the rules on the conduct of raids. We move on the basis of evidence," PNP spokesperson Senior Supt. Leopoldo Bataoil told the INQUIRER.

Knecht was arrested during a raid on his home on Sept. 3 last year, less than four months after he had filed a complaint against Cainta Mayor Nicanor Felix and the municipal government with Interior Secretary Jose Lina Jr. on May 29.

Expensive items

His godson Aguinaldo was arrested a few days later, after five grams of shabu were supposedly found in a shoe box in the same Antipolo house.

Knecht said he and Aguinaldo were never tested for possible drug use afterward.

Not contented with "planting shabu," the policemen allegedly took expensive items from the house, such as silverware, a 19th-century chest and an Amorsolo painting of a six-month-old Rene in the arms of his mother, Knecht said.

Consultants have to go, says Bunye

HIGH-SALARIED consultants of government agencies will be included in Malacañang's oft-delayed plan to trim the fat off the bureaucracy, according to presidential spokesperson Ignacio Bunye.

In an interview with RMN radio, Bunye said government departments should review on a case-to-case basis whether or not to retain their current crop of consultants.

The Department of Finance has drafted an executive order mandating a voluntary retirement program for government workers in specific agencies, such as the Bureau of Internal Revenue.

Bunye noted that government consultants were not covered by this streamlining initiative, but that he believed they should be.

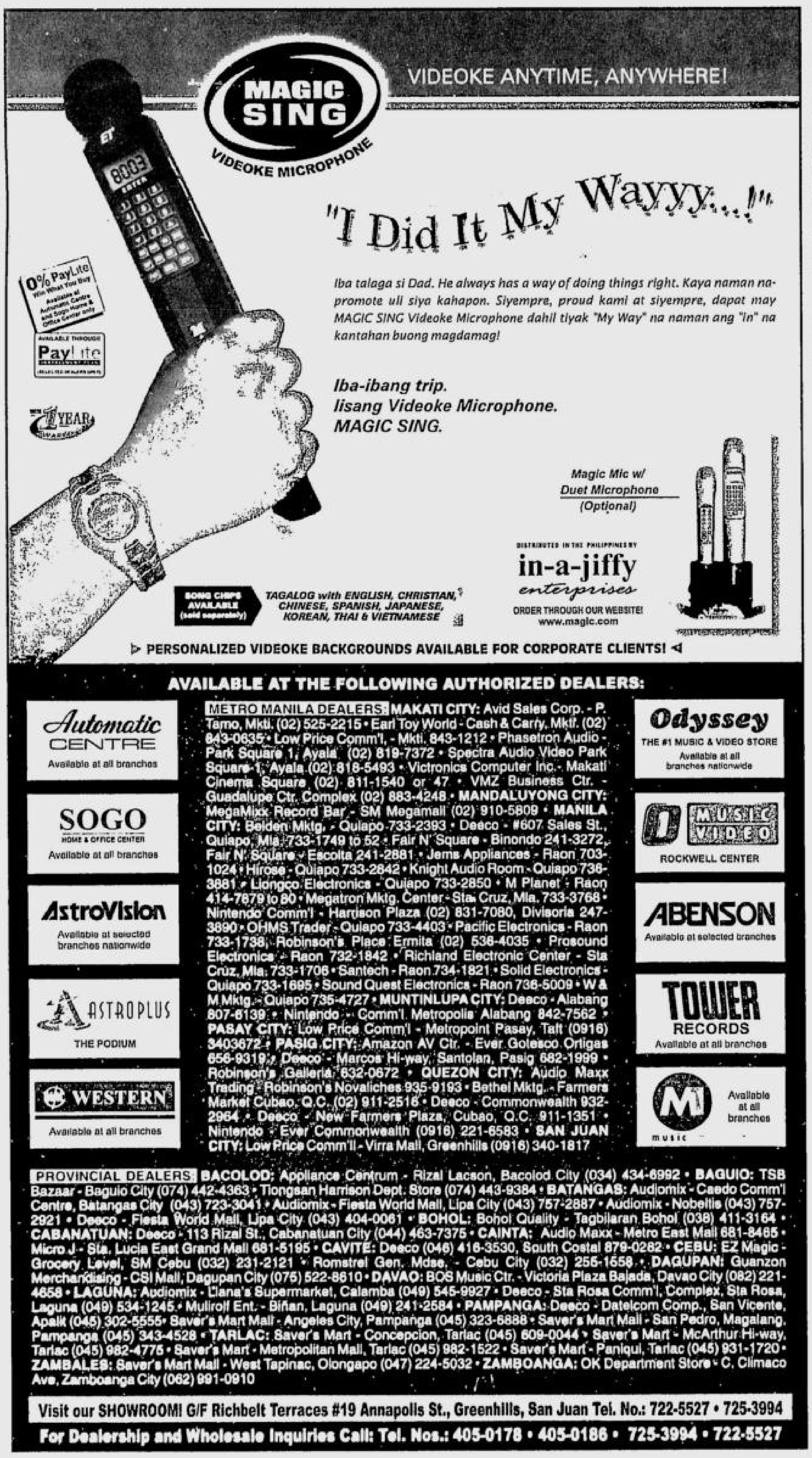
Top officials of state agencies are allowed to hire as many "special assistants" as they want, as long as fees fall within the allocated budget for special employees. *Gil C. Cabacungan Jr.*

Malaysia, RP navies exercise

EIGHT naval ships from the Philippines and Malaysia took part Sunday in the start of a weeklong training exercise against piracy, hijacking, illegal fishing and smuggling, officials said.

The annual border patrol exercise will cover the Sulu Sea, off Malaysia's eastern Sabah state on Borneo island, and the southern Philippines' Sulu archipelago, where pirates, Muslim guerrillas and smugglers roam.

Cmdr. Nelson Panes of the Philippine Navy said five Malaysian ships with more than 150 personnel and three Philippine Navy vessels were taking part. *AP*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Piatco to file own raps vs Lucio Tan

By N. Bordadora

THE PHILIPPINE International Air Terminals Co. Inc. yesterday said it will file counter-charges against businessman Lucio Tan, after the taipan brought a graft complaint against Piatco and former transportation department officials over alleged irregularities in the Naia Terminal 3 deal.

Piatco counsel Frank Chavez told the INQUIRER they will also ask Solicitor General Simeon Marcelo to inhibit himself from hearing the case filed by Tan before the Ombudsman.

Marcelo used to be a member of the Carpio, Villaraza law office and represented Tan in Asia's Emerging Dragons Corp.'s complaint against Piatco before the Pasig Regional Trial Court in 1999.

"Lucio Tan will definitely be impleaded as a respondent in the counter-charges. Tan bought out the other taipans as early as December 1998 and henceforth owned and controlled AEDC," Chavez said.

AEDC lost out to Piatco in the bidding for the Ninoy Aquino International Airport Terminal 3 project.

"The counter-charges against Tan will be based on the fact that it was AEDC that altered the bid proposals, and Piatco simply took over from where AEDC left off," Chavez said.

The graft complaint, filed by Tan with the Ombudsman last Tuesday, was based on the Supreme Court ruling in May which voided the Piatco contract with the government.

Tan's lawyers asked the Ombudsman to file criminal charges against former transportation secretary Pantaleon Alvarez and others for alleged conspiracy to "defraud and deprive" the AEDC of the opportunity to "develop and implement" the air terminal project.

Aside from Alvarez, the other respondents were Francisco Atayde, Cesar Valbuena, Herminia Castillo, Wilfredo Trinidad, Amado Lagdameo, Primitivo Cal, Henry Go, Jefferson Cheng, Cheng Yong, Bernd Struck, Hans Arthur Vogel and Alfonso Liongson.

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POLITICAL LAW (CONSTITUTIONAL LAW)/REMEDIAL LAW (CRIMINAL PROCEDURE)—**Warrantless arrest, search and seizure**—The Constitution enshrines in its Bill of Rights the right of the people to be secure in their persons, houses, papers and effects against unreasonable searches and seizures of whatever nature and for any purpose. To give full protection to it, the Bill of Rights also ordains the exclusionary principle that any evidence obtained in violation of said right is inadmissible for any purpose in any proceeding. It is obvious from Section 2 of the Bill of Rights that reasonable searches and seizures are not proscribed. If conducted by virtue of a valid search warrant issued in compliance with the guidelines prescribed by the Constitution and reiterated in the Rules of Court, the search and seizure is valid. The interdiction against warrantless searches and seizures is not absolute. The recognized exceptions established by jurisprudence are (1) search of moving vehicles; (2) seizure in plain view; (3) customs search; (4) waiver or consented search; (5) stop and frisk situation (Terry search); and (6) search incidental to a lawful arrest. The last includes a valid warrantless search and seizure pursuant to an equally valid warrantless arrest, for, while as a rule, an arrest is considered legitimate if effected with a valid warrant of arrest, the Rules of Court recognize permissible warrantless arrests, to wit: (1) arrests in flagrante delicto, (2) arrests effected in hot pursuit, and (3) arrests of escaped prisoners. Another exception is a search made pursuant to routine airport security procedure, which is authorized under Section 9 of Rep. Act No. 6235. [Citations omitted.] [Chief Justice Davide, Jr., First Division, People v. Macalaba, G.R. Nos. 146284-86. Jan. 20]

DIGEST BY R. B. VERA

THE DAILY GOSPEL

Monday, June 23, 2003
12th Week in Ordinary Time

1st Reading:	Gen 12:1-9
Gospel:	Mt 7:1-5

Jesus said to his disciples, "Do not judge and you will not be judged. In the same way you judge others, you will be judged, and the measure you use for others will be used for you. Why do you look at the speck in your brother's eye and not see the plank in your own eye? How can you say to your brother: 'Come, let me take the speck from your eye,' as long as that plank is in your own? Hypocrite, take first the plank out of your own eye, then you will see clear enough to take the speck out of your brother's eye."

Commentary

How often do we complain about being misunderstood and misjudged! Yet our own prejudices and biases easily lead us to offensive and slanderous judgments. No one really knows what goes on in the minds and hearts of other people that make them do what they do. Upbringing, education, social and cultural background, circumstances in life, and a host of other unknown factors influence a person's choices and decisions. And they are different for each one of us. Jesus asks us to remember this before we make any judgment of others. Doing so will make us more understanding and cautious, sympathetic and kind. He takes us further: are our own motivations pure? Do we deal justly with others? Are we instruments of justice, peace and love?

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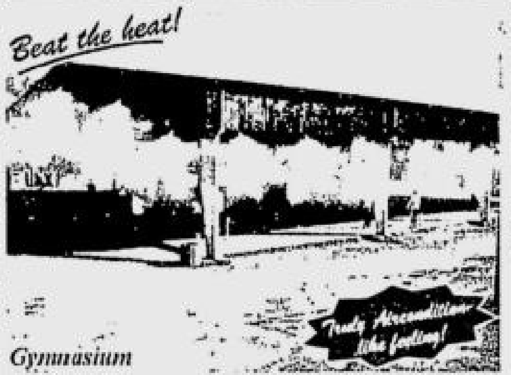

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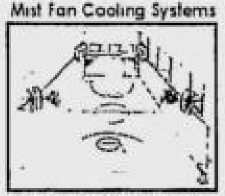
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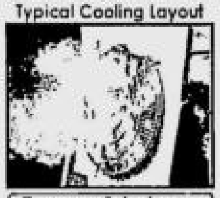
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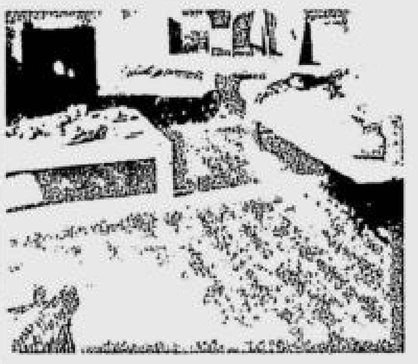
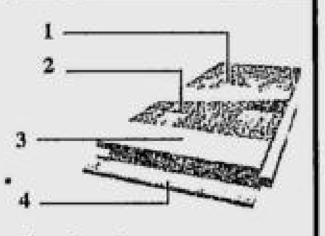

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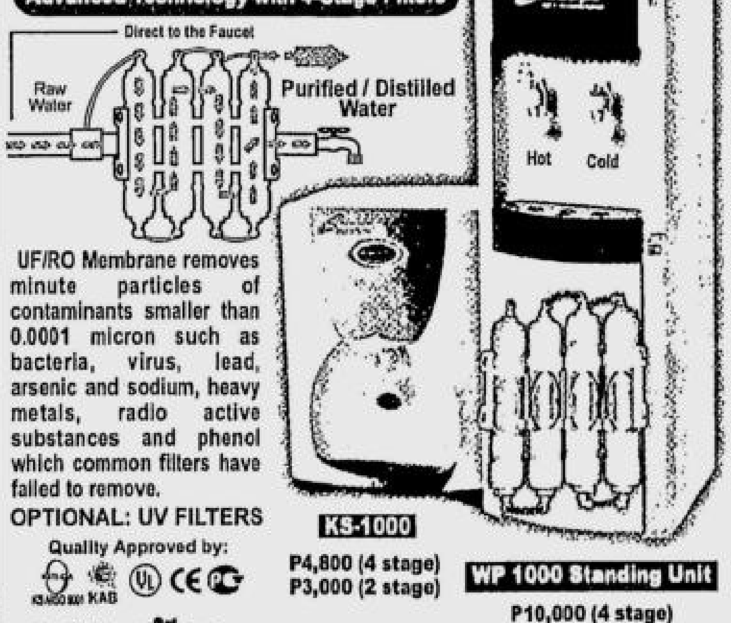

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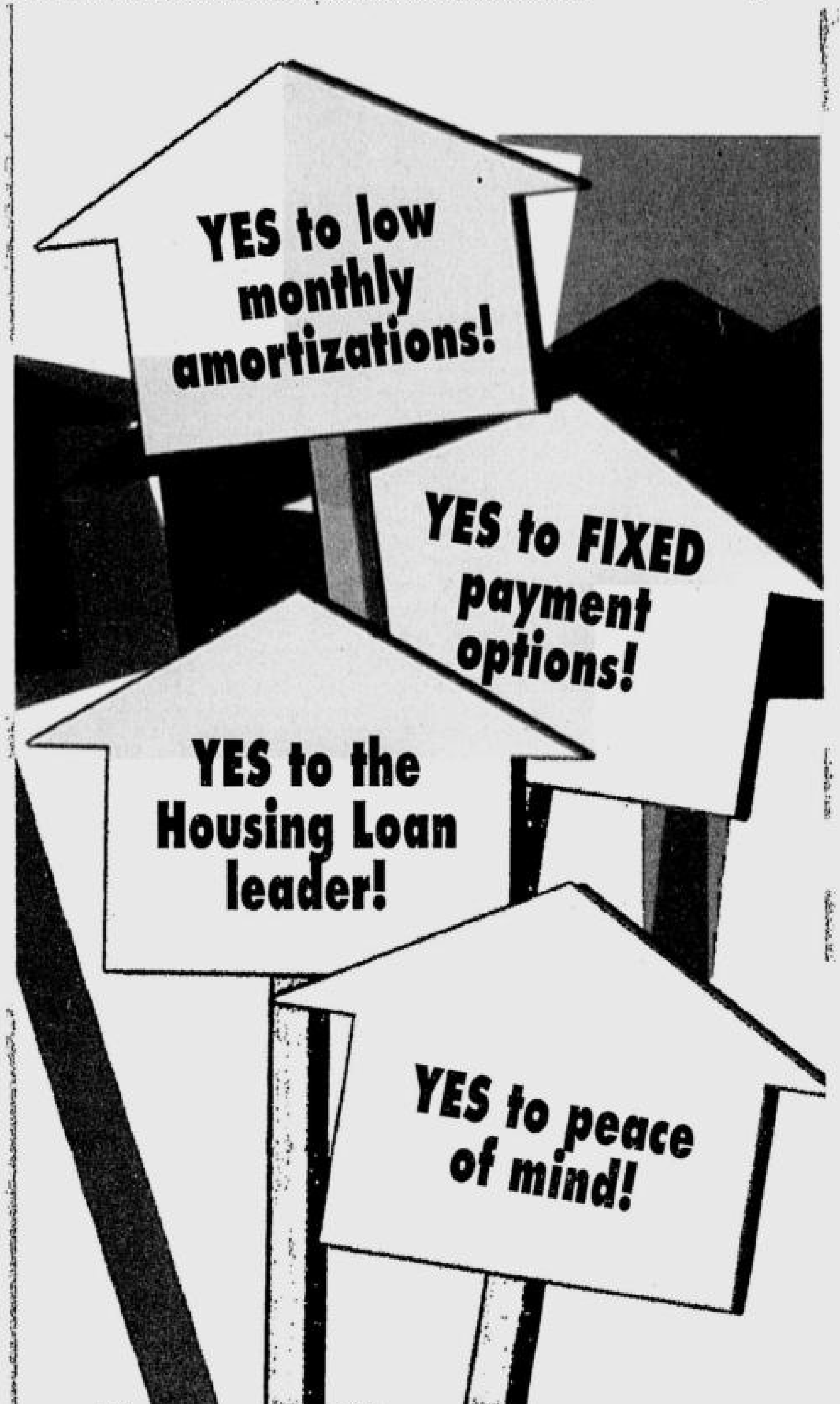
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The revisionist

EDITORIAL

COULD it be that ex-senator Francisco Tatad has finally found Marx? Groucho Marx, that is. Last week, he told the INQUIRER that the institution that was his ruling passion in the last decade—he won a three-year term in 1992 and returned with a six-year term in 1995—was no longer worth the time of day.

The comedian—Marx, not Tatad—once famously said he did not want to belong to any club that would accept him. Tatad's statement, that the Senate was a "dead institution," can be read as a variation on the same comic theme: He doesn't want to belong to a club that already accepted him.

Let us not talk about Tatad's dismal chances of winning a third term (the lights began to dim on Jan. 16, 2001, the day he led his allies in the Senate to the notorious 11-10 decision on the second Jose Velarde envelope). Let us assume that his statements about the death of the Senate were not prompted by practical considerations, such as his losing at the polls; that they do, in fact, accurately reflect his thought.

What, then, can we make of the following statement? The Senate "used to be the training ground for future presidents. But it has become a dead institution. So how can a dead institution produce leaders that will become president?" Or of this: "To begin with, it has not produced anything. Even on the most serious issues you do not hear anything from the Senate. That speaks for the institution."

Having served twice as majority leader—essentially the senator who runs the Senate on a daily basis and dictates its working pace—Tatad presumably knows more about the workings of the institution than other members of the country's most exclusive club. But incredibly, Tatad reduces the Senate's role to one essential activity: the training of future presidents.

It is true that most of the country's presidents were once senators, including Manuel Quezon, the most dominant politician in the first half of the 20th century, and Ferdinand Marcos, the most dominant political figure in the second half. But to confuse this historical fact with the Senate's constitutional role is, well, to mistake the forest for the presidential timber.

But Tatad, now the chair of the advisory council of Joseph Estrada's Puwersa ng Masa, does not stop there. He uses the lack of senators he considers worthy of running for the presidency as proof that the Senate is—to use a word his fellow self-taught ex-senator, Blas Ople, would have loved to use—moribund.

He offers yet more proof: The Senate is dead because it has not been heard from on "the most serious issues." But a simple exercise in fact-checking shows that, if anything, the Senate has been "heard from" on almost every imaginable issue. The ouster of Estrada, the political scandals besetting the Macapagal administration, the dawning of the Age of Terrorism, the war in Iraq and the presence of American troops in the country, the prospects for peace in Mindanao, the future of electoral reform—name it, a senator or two, or the Senate itself, has spoken at length on it.

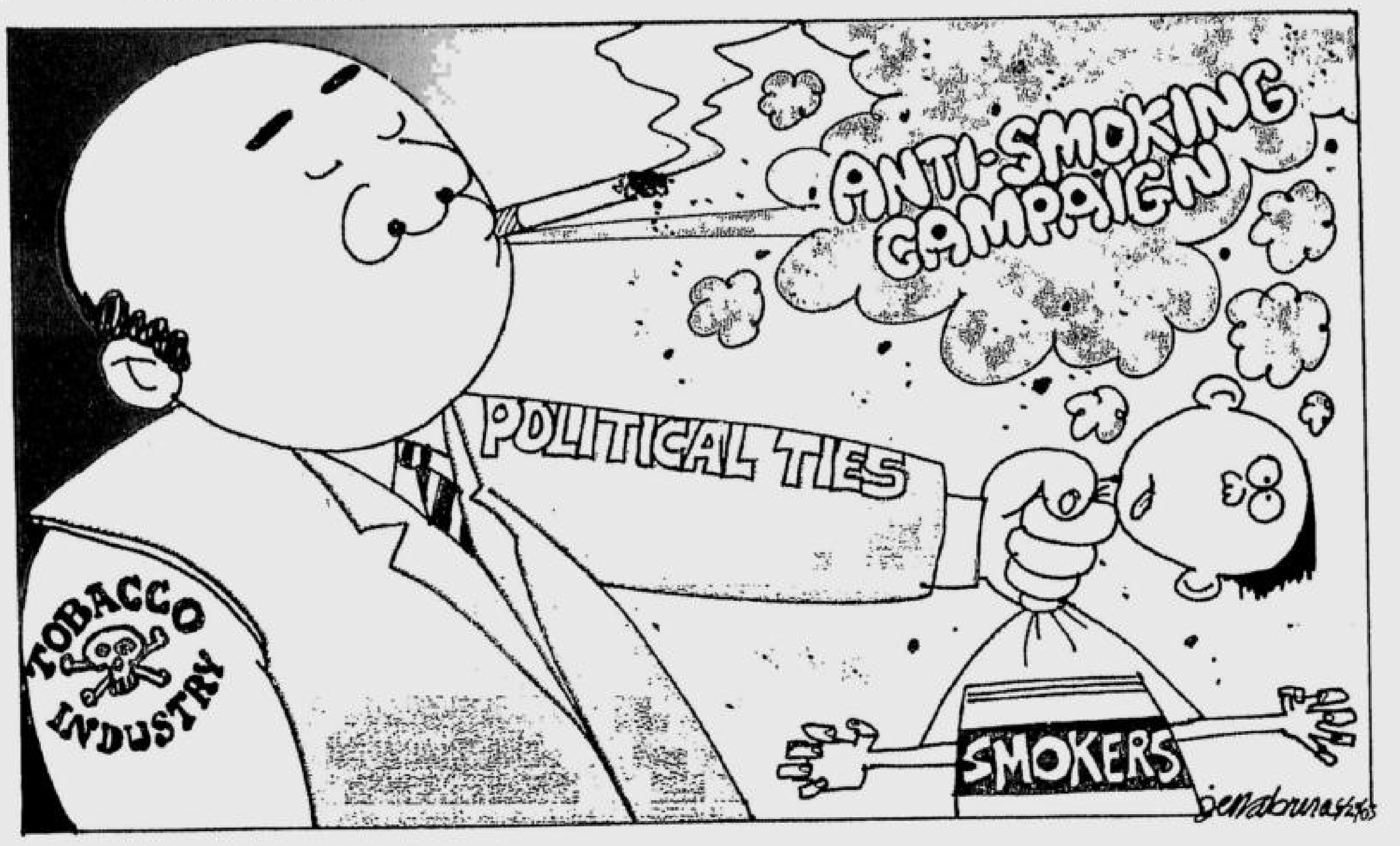
The Senate since Tatad left it has been wracked by the political tension generated by Estrada's ouster and President Macapagal-Arroyo's rise to power. The opposition's hypocritical rump session last year was only the worst in a series of blatantly partisan skirmishes in the chamber. But the Senate also acted on the absentee voting law—the most significant effort in electoral reform and political empowerment since women got the vote. In sum: The Senate has not exactly been silent in the last two years.

(It is worth noting what Tatad means by presidential training: being heard from on serious issues. By this definition, he would have to include—surprise, surprise—even himself.)

The real question, of course, is: If the Senate is truly dead, who killed it?

To which the best answer is a question *for* Tatad, using a line borrowed from the legal thrillers we often see on television: Where were you on the night of Jan. 16, 2001?

Tatad and Juan Ponce Enrile, in forcing a favorable vote on the second Velarde envelope during the impeachment trial, not only cost Estrada his job; after carefully "laying the predicate," they also stabbed the Senate in the back.



They're coming, and hell is coming with them!

AS I SEE IT

Neal H. Cruz

IT'S like the celebrated Toyota-Crispa reunion, two long-time basketball team rivals tangling again after a very long layoff. This time, it is a rematch of the first team of Manila's Finest against their old nemesis, the drug syndicates. They had tangled before, in the early 1990s, and some of the drug lords went to the Great Beyond and others went elsewhere. But the four of them are now retired policemen and leadership of the police force has passed on to younger officers who, as it turned out, are not as tough and smart as their predecessors. So the drug syndicates have returned with a vengeance and are now threatening the whole country. In comic book lingo, "this is a job for Superman."

But "we are not supermen," declared Sen. Robert Barbers. Nevertheless "we are confident we will produce tangible results," he added. We do not know what he means by "results" but some naughty observers expect corpses of drug lords and pushers to turn up here and there very soon. Which can be just as well, some say, as we already have an overpopulation of drug pushers and the only way to stop the population explosion is by culling.

If the drug lords and pushers want to finish their allotted time on earth, they should leave town immediately. For it is like Wyatt Earp and his brothers with Doc Holliday descending on Tombstone to rid it of outlaws and other various scum. It is like Dirty Harry teaming up with the Charles Bronson vigilante and the Magnificent Seven. The Philippines is going to be a pretty hot and crowded place for people in the narcotics trade.

A few days after Barbers had a reunion with his former boss, Alfredo Lim, (ex-chief of the Manila Police Department, ex-Manila mayor, ex-chief of the National Bureau of Investigation, and ex-secretary of Interior and Local Government) at the Kapihan sa Manila last Monday during which they reminisced about the good old days in Manila's Finest, President Macapagal-Arroyo appointed Barbers as anti-drug czar, in addition to continuing as senator and chair of the Senate committee on public order and illegal drugs. Barbers, in turn, turned to his old comrades in the police force: Lim, ex-Col. Reynaldo Jaylo and ex-Maj. Lucio Margallo. Together, dubbed as the "four aces," they had licked the drug syndicates in the 1990s; there's no reason why they can't do it again.

The reputations of Lim, Barbers, Jaylo and Margallo precede them just as the reputations of Earp, Holliday and other gunfighters preceded them in the Wild West, prompting the various scum to leave town before the lawmen arrived. If our drug lords and pushers know what's good for them, they should do the same. To paraphrase Earp in "Tombstone," "We're coming, and hell is coming with us!"

For the "four aces" already have notches on their guns. Besides other exploits that people only whisper about, Barbers is known as the killer of alleged drug lord Don Pepe Oyson when he grabbed Barbers' gun in an attempt to escape from a police van taking him to detention; Lim, for the death of a notorious manufacturer of fake drugs; Jaylo, for the killing of an army major during a shootout in a drug bust in Makati; and Margallo for other similar exploits. They will now have new, high-powered guns with plenty of room for more notches.

Presumably, the A-team will also promote the art of painting, on walls and sidewalks. We all know that Lim is a prolific painter and perhaps should be named National Artist. Lim's paintings of signs on drug pushers' homes have been very successful, if not artistically, at least in forcing the pushers to take vacations elsewhere. So I presume Lim will resume his hobby: painting.

But unlike in the Wild West or the movies, the success of any anti-drug campaign in these modern times depends not only on the police who will catch the pushers. With so many human rights advocates, hearts bleeding for the criminals, success also depends on a fast and efficient justice system. With our courts of law as slow and lenient as they are, we can expect many drug lords and pushers, their pockets overflowing with cash, slipping through the net, no matter how hard the policemen work. The anti-drug laws are harsh, yes, but the judges and jailers are lax.

Drug offenses are non-bailable, but the suspects manage to escape from jail. Many cases against drug offenders are dismissed by the courts. Judges say prosecutors botch their jobs; prosecutors claim some judges are on the take. Judges counter that some prosecutors are also on the take and purposely throw cases. Where there's smoke, there's fire, and both are probably partially correct. After all, the drug syndicates have plenty of money and can afford to buy many government officials.

Without judging who are the real hoodlums, the fact remains that drug cases take many years in court, during which some of those accused escape, or are acquitted because of lackadaisical prosecution and lenient or, worse, corrupt judges.

The law creates special courts exclusively for drug cases and also gives prosecutors a deadline for completing prosecution. The purpose is to hasten the trials of drug cases. Supreme penalty for drug cases is death, but before the drug lords can be meted out the punishment they deserve, they must first be convicted in court. But these provisions in the law are not being implemented. There are no special courts for drug cases and prosecutors still take forever to prosecute drug offenders.

So, shouldn't President Macapagal implement all the laws to make her anti-drug campaign successful?

Heart

THERE'S THE RUB

Conrado de Quiros

WHEN I interviewed Rafael "Rocky" Ileto six years ago for a book on martial law, he had had three heart bypass operations. None of them seemed to bother him. He was a fighter, and whatever it took to accomplish the mission, he would do it. The last operation, he told me, his eyes twinkling with much humor, was not just an ordinary bypass. He was fitted with a gadget inside his chest to monitor his bodily functions.

He pulled down his shirt to show me a bulge on his left upper chest, near the shoulder, and on his shoulder itself a small hole. All they needed to do to know his physical condition at any time was to plug him to a computer—that was what he hole was for—and his vital signs appeared there. It was all very nice, he said laughing, except that he had to avoid magnetic fields because they made the needle in his gadget go crazy. And it posed a minor inconvenience to his love life.

The gadget had one other function than just to monitor his health, he said like a child marveling at an amazing thing, and that was to send an electric charge when his heart failed. It would jolt him enough to get him to a hospital. Alas, it may have done that last week, but his heart had gotten too tired to respond.

Ileto will always be remembered as the general who said no to martial law. He was a close friend of the Marcoses. In happier times, during parties, Marcos would ask him to dance with Imelda because Marcos did not know how and Ileto did, very well. He was a graceful man, well-heeled and had good manners. In those times too, Marcos was heard to say during a golf game: "The sequence for AFP chief is this: Manuel Yan, Romeo Espino and Rafael Ileto. That is how it will be."

Like Marcos, Ileto was a lawyer. Though quite by accident. He was entitled to postgraduate studies in the United States under the GI Bill of Rights being a veteran of World War II. He chose law over engineering for a curious reason. The reason was that graduate school brought with it a stipend of P120, a fortune in those days. Engineering was only two years while law was four. No contest, Ileto chose law.

Fortunately for him, and unfortunately for Marcos, Ileto took his studies to heart. He believed in civilian supremacy, encouraged in no small way by the fact that he found a great deal of the AFP lacking in professionalism, something he tried desperately to correct, submitting a comprehensive reorganization program for the purpose. Which Marcos ignored—he had no use for a professionalized military.

Ileto's star in the Marcos firmament dimmed during the height of the First Quarter Storm in January 1970 when the activists stormed Malacañang. Even Marcos appeared to have been unprepared for it, and in a meeting with his civilian and military staff in the Palace, he appeared angry and agitated. He asked them if he should declare a state of emergency and mount martial rule there and then, looking for corroboration rather than honest opinion. Everybody said yes, some in fear, others with enthusiasm. Imelda herself was fuming, saying again and again she had been telling her husband to do that a long time ago, but he would not listen.

Everybody said yes, except Ileto.

Ileto had never lacked heart. He had fought with the Scout Rangers during the Japanese Occupation, and as provincial commander of Tarlac in the 1960s had fought against private armies that wielded superior firepower. "They had far more sophisticated weapons than we did!" But that was nothing compared to Marcos. All the generals were afraid of him. ("He was always two or three steps ahead of you!" Espino gushed.) But Ileto felt compelled to speak his mind.

It was not necessary, he said. The provocation was not sufficient, and the AFP was not prepared to take over, even if only temporarily.

Marcos looked at him balefully, but calmed down. Not long afterward, Ileto was demoted and found himself in floating status.

Ileto never really got the chance to say no to Marcos when he declared martial law almost three years later simply because he was never included in the plan. They knew his position. He was shut out, and even regarded as a potential threat. Someone would tell him later he was even included in the list of those to be picked up after martial law. If it did not happen, it was probably because Marcos feared the political repercussions rather than valued the friendship.

The greatest acts of courage, Ileto would learn from that experience, were not physical. They were moral. The greatest thing to fear was not the faceless enemy waiting in ambush in the bushes, it is was the curdling ambition in one's heart waiting to spring to the surface. The most dazzling act of bravery was not to leap out of the trenches rifle in hand to assault the enemy, it was to hold on to one's beliefs when they were being sorely tested and walk quietly in one's path.

Ileto was the only senior member of the AFP who did not take part in the plot to mount martial law. All the rest did. They eventually became known as the Rolex 12, Marcos' "12 Apostles" whom he presumably gifted with Rolex watches afterward. Or so the story went. He was so elated by the success of his enterprise he was moved to deviate from his legendary tightfistedness. But like much of martial law, that story was false, too.

"I don't know why they called us the 'Rolex 12,'" Espino would tell me later. "In the first place, Marcos never gave us a Rolex watch. What he gave us was an Omega watch. And it was even a fake Omega watch. It was a cheap watch. It did not last very long. After a while, it broke down."

He might have been talking about martial law.

Ileto never got a watch, Rolex or fake Omega. But he will have the satisfaction of leaving behind a name that will never break down.

* * *

Comments to dequiros@info.com.ph

Abalos gives his side

POLITICAL TIDBITS

Belinda Olivares-Cunanan

EARLIER I aired the fear of multi-awarded San Isidro, Nueva Ecija Mayor Sonia R. Lorenzo that Comelec Chair Benjamin Abalos was railroading the canvass of votes in her municipality and the proclamation of her rival Nestor Magno, despite the fact that she was proclaimed by the Comelec en banc as lawful winner in May 2001 and had been occupying that office for over two years now. Magno was disqualified by the Comelec's Second Division during the May 2001 elections for having been convicted of direct bribery by the Sandiganbayan, an action that was affirmed by the Comelec en banc. Magno went to the Supreme Court for a writ of certiorari, but since there was no restraint at that time, the Comelec deleted his name and proclaimed Lorenzo winner.

Two years later, however, Abalos ordered the Comelec to conduct a canvass of the municipal votes and proclaim the "winner" immediately, prompting Lorenzo to appeal to the Supreme Court to issue a TRO against his order. The high court readily acceded and last Tuesday ordered a status quo in San Isidro, pending resolution of Lorenzo's petition.

* * *

Last week Abalos wrote this column and noted that I had recalled that last October 2002 the Supreme Court threw out Magno's omnibus motion to annul Lorenzo's proclamation on the ground that his election protest was no longer "timely" as it went beyond the 10-day period for protest. But Abalos said I "conveniently omitted" the fact that while the high court denied Magno's petition to annul his opponent's proclamation, the Supreme Court also ruled that Magno's disqualification ceased as of March 5, 2000, and that he was therefore no longer under any disqualification when he ran for mayor in 2001. Acting on the Supreme Court's ruling, said Abalos, he ordered last May 2003 the canvassing of returns and the immediate proclamation of the winner (now stopped by the Supreme Court).

"Please be advised that I am not 'bent' on installing Magno," Abalos said, stressing that the Comelec's only aim is to finally determine the choice of the electorate of San Isidro, in order to be able to proclaim the "rightful winner." He stressed that Mayor Lorenzo "has nothing to fear, as our efforts are geared toward not only determining Magno's rights," but also dispelling any doubts as to Lorenzo's occupancy of the position.

* * *

It's still difficult to understand Abalos' order, for the Supreme Court had already denied last October Magno's petition to annul Lorenzo's proclamation; why should Abalos now order a new canvassing when Lorenzo has been in office for two years now, duly proclaimed by the Comelec en banc in May 2001, and less than a year before the new elections? I understand that there are many other similar situations around the country, so close to the next elections. In such actions by the poll body, one can see how the seeds of instability and partisan strife are being sown. By contrast, recall how the US Supreme Court of Florida ordered the proclamation of George W. Bush as the date of the inauguration of the new US President fast approached in January 2001, even if there were overseas votes still uncanvassed that could have meant the electoral college victory of rival Al Gore in Florida, and consequently in the entire United States. All in the interest of national stability.

* * *

Former Public Works Secretary Jose de Jesus, now president and CEO of the Manila North Tollways Corp. (MNTC), wrote to explain the MNTC's side in the current construction of the Northern Luzon Expressway (NLE) being undertaken by Leighton Contractors Asia. Earlier I aired the complaints of NLE travelers about the horrendous traffic due to the closure of some lanes because of ongoing construction, the poor state of the open lanes and the lack of supervisory personnel especially during rush hours and heavy rains.

De Jesus said it was necessary to close the entire northbound lane for the San Simon-San Fernando stretch, using only the southbound lane. It was also necessary to undertake the simultaneous work on the embankment formation of the perennially flooded lanes, which have to be raised by as much as two meters in some sections and five meters in other sections before the onset of the rainy season. To help lessen the traffic, he said the shoulder was expanded and additional enforcers, flagmen and motorized patrons have been deployed both by Philippine National Construction Co., which operates the tollways, and Leighton, to direct and regulate traffic. Repair of the potholes has also been finished by the PNCC.

De Jesus admitted, however, that despite best efforts and quick response to accidents and vehicle breakdowns, the traffic "grows kilometric by the minute." He appealed to "motorist discipline and foresight in planning their trips" by familiarizing themselves with peak hours and alternative routes, through traffic advisories and emergency hotlines posted along the NLE.

* * *

De Jesus explained that the North Luzon Tollway Project being undertaken by the MNTC is "the first of its magnitude in the course of the NLE's 34-year existence as the gateway to the North." It involves the rehabilitation, improvement and expansion of the 84-km stretch from Balintawak to Sta. Ines, Pampanga, as well as the addition of 132 lane-km through widening, building additional interchanges, flyovers, toll plazas and barriers, and operations and maintenance buildings, as well as the installation of added safety features. When completed, De Jesus stressed, the NLE "will be transformed into a new tollway system" that will be a boon to the motoring public and the socio-economic progress of the nation, though he warned that "inconveniences will still be expected." I'm sure, however, that all the people want to see is that best efforts are being exerted by the MNTC, Leighton and PNCC to overcome the problems.

'Hadlok'

KRIS-CROSSING MINDANAO

Carlos Isagani T. Zarate

IT was a nightmare 15-year-old Ron-ron, a former street child, wished was just a bad dream. But for him and a hundred other kids, the terror they faced in the dawn of May 24 in Malagos, Davao City will forever haunt them the rest of their lives.

"*Hadlok kaayo mi, nagkurog mi sa kakuyaw* (We were so afraid; we were trembling in fear)." Ron-ron recalls how they were awakened at gunpoint by armed men in full battle gear who barged into the youth camp organized by the Kabataan Consortium, an umbrella organization of several youth-oriented NGOs in Davao City. "I woke up with the barrel of an Armalite facing me."

The raiding armed men had no nameplates; some were in civilian clothes. No warrant was shown either. They herded the youth camp participants—mostly street children and prostituted girls and boys and a handful of adult facilitators—into the camp's main hall with their hands behind their backs. With the children closely guarded inside the hall, other members of the raiding team turned upside down the children's tents, in search of guns and ammunition, which were purportedly hidden in the camp, according to military intelligence.

When told by a participant that the week-long psychosocial rehabilitation program includes a briefing on children's rights, a member of the raiding team retorted that the intelligence report must be really correct because the lectures include human rights.

Yet, after several hours of search with no guns or ammunitions found, the only thing the leader of the raiding team could say to the weeping and horrified children is: Sorry, we were mistaken... but, we did this to protect you against the terrorists!

In the aftermath of the raid, nobody would apparently own up to the faux pas. Ranking city and regional police officials denied knowledge or involvement in the raid. The head of the Army's 73rd Infantry Battalion, the nearest military contingent in the area, was also ambiguous in his statements.

More than a week after the incident, Mayor Rodrigo Duterte, invoking his authority as chair of the crisis management team appointed by President Macapagal-Arroyo, finally admitted that the Malagos raid was in fact a joint military-police operation with his imprimatur. The justification offered: the raiding team was in a hot pursuit operation against a group of terrorists allegedly transporting arms from the nearby Calinan District toward Malagos. If it was a legitimate operation, then why the initial denials by the military and the police? That it took them more than a week to straighten out their flawed script only betrays the kind of peace and order campaign now being implemented in the city in the aftermath of the so-called "state of lawless violence" now in place in the region.

Granting that it was indeed a legitimate operation, Duterte should not have just glossed over the alleged violations and abuses committed by the Malagos raiding team, and the other warrantless searches and arrests in Moro communities reportedly committed by the "anti-terrorist" military-police contingent of Task Force Davao.

Fortunately, the children, with their parents, have transformed their traumatic experience into courage by filing cases, initially with the Commission on Human Rights. This, despite some insensitive comments and discouragement from some sectors, including the media, not to blow the incident out of proportion.

* * *

Nowadays, the heightened presence of police and military in Davao City and its environs may give one a sense of security, however false. You can see them everywhere: at the malls, church compounds, schools, bus terminal and, even inside McDonald's and Jollibee.

Yet, one of the many questions many Davaoeños ask is: Has Davao City gone back to its old reputation as the country's "killing fields"? It is mind-boggling that with the tight security, violence and terror perpetrated by the so-called Davao Death Squad (DDS) against suspected drug pushers and other criminals continue unabated in the city. So far, more than 200 killings were attributed to this shadowy group.

Last June 16, in broad daylight, two theft suspects were gunned down by motorcycle-riding men just several meters away from the premises of the police Heinous Crime Investigation Section (HCIS), where, 10 minutes earlier, both were released from detention. One of the victims was accompanied by his wife and two minor children at the time.

"*Kit-an man gyud nako nga gipusil sa ulo akong papa. Gipatay nila akong papa* (I really saw my father shot in the head. They killed him)," said the 10-year-old boy who, with his sister, was soaked in their father's blood.

After June 16, vigilantes felled more crime suspects, some also newly released from detention. Last month, four other petty crime suspects were also killed while on a passenger jeepney a few meters away from the Sasa Police Station where they were earlier detained.

Lawyer Victorio Advincula, a veteran city councilor, aptly described the situation now pervading in Davao City when he said: "If we go by the law, there is a breakdown of law and order... no one can close his eyes to this kind of incident if it happens time and again."

It appears, though, that at the rate these killings are going on, the police will just tote them all up in their dismal statistic of unsolved (or, is it solved?) crimes.

* * *

Comments to karlos_z23@hotmail.com or kar_laws@yahoo.com

GMA exiles education and science to Dapitan

COMMENTARY

Dean Jorge Bocobo

JOSE Rizal, whose birthday was last Thursday drowned in typhoons and amnesia, remains in a kind of Dapitan exile. Recall that the national hero was excommunicated by the Catholic Church—a Mason executed for treason and rebellion by the Spanish Taliban on Dec. 30, 1896. Rizal Day is thus trapped between Christmas and New Year, a lachrymose celebration of death and heresy during the Yuletide. It also marks Gloria's Gambit in 2002, while on Rizal Day 2000, we were attacked by al-Qaida and Jemaah Islamiyah and their local terrorist allies.

But when his family re-interred Rizal at Luneta in 1911, the honor of a funeral procession and memorial service went to the Masonic Temple in Tondo, 15 years after his one-day trial at Fort Santiago and murder at Bagumbayan. But if you accept catechism, the "First Filipino" of "Asia's first democracy" will burn in hell forever.

At http://JoseRizal.blogspot.com the evidence that convicted him is being discussed. What is more damning of capital apostasy than those five letters he wrote in his own hand to Fr. Pablo Pastells, Jesuit superior, starting in 1892 from exile in Dapitan? The Jesuits hid Rizal's originals for nearly a century at a monastery in San Cugat, Spain, after the trial. Why? We knew they existed because Retana published Rizal's drafts in 1906, but only excerpts of the stunning "third letter" to Pastells—pure heresy from a man of science. (The authoritative rendition in Spanish and English of this epistolary is Raul J. Bonoan, S.J., "The Rizal-Pastells Correspondence," Ateneo de Manila University Press, ©1994.)

There, Rizal speaks for Rizal to the vast audience of history. He delivers himself to his executioners. He made sure we'd get these letters, the weapons of his self-destruction, a full manifest of the "shipwreck of his faith." Along with "Noli Me Tangere" and "El Filibusterismo" these "epistles at dawn" should be mandatory reading. The Rizal one meets has a mind of the 21st century and beyond. The things he says are not retractable. He settles the old debate himself with eloquence.

Surely, it was some American's wicked sense of humor that gave us Rizal, the wrong hero for a land of coffee-table book churches. Yet, it may be Padre Damaso's revenge that in town plazas all over the archipelago, Rizal was rendered in statues that are "smaller than life."

The saints and saviors which fill the nearby Catholic churches are grander and outnumber him 365 to 1. Rizal's hell is to stand there mutely in the acid rain of our secret disdain—left to the tender mercies of the pigeons—listening to sermons of silent subterfuge theocracy has wreaked on him all along.

The Catholic Church ruled here as the Taliban did Afghanistan. It's no surprise she survived American colonial conquest. Democracy has only withered on her cold, monarchic and resentful shoulder. Our state religion predates our moot anti-establishment constitutional provisions, and the Philippine Church never embraced democracy as holy, portraying it as a rival to the Kingdom of God, or a pale imitation. That is why we have a weak republic and Filipinos do not respect the Constitution. The state religion jealously guards its ancient privilege of acting on good intention. Joseph Estrada and the rule of law are the most spectacular recent victims of two wrongs not making a right.

Now, look at the legacy that Gloria will leave in education, as a result of Opus Dei meddling in the Basic Education Curriculum (BEC). There will be NO Science subject in ALL public elementary school in Grades 1 and 2. Last year, the high school Science program was crippled by a 25 percent reduction, or a billion hours, in the study and teaching time of Earth Science, Biology, Chemistry and Physics. This mocks common sense and the Third International Math and Science Study of 1999, when the Philippines was third from the last in both Math and Science in the world.

Makabayan is really many subjects neatly hidden in one. They call this "decongestion." I call it intellectual dishonesty. There is history, yes, but also a "values education" component. Nostalgia for catechesis is shamelessly expressed. Gloria buys the twisted logic that we can learn more science by studying less of it—just to mollify the Catholic Church. As if daily Catholic Mass at the main hall of the Department of Education, Malacañang, Congress and the Supreme Court, were not domination enough. Or the enterprises of simony based on guilty contrition. But Gloria may soon discover the true meaning of contrition in legal conditions having to do with religious freedom under the US Congress' Millennium Challenge and other foreign aid programs. Bet you! Gloria will rue this awful decision on education.

Is Gloria genuine about training more Filipino genetic engineers and IT professionals? She said so in Zamboanga on June 12. But this BEC will only produce more GROs who devoutly go to Mass every Sunday. They will be driven by tricycle drivers who will never design GMOs (genetically modified organisms) because the pseudoscience superspreaders in media and academe unleash devastating propaganda against scientific careers every single chance they get. Radical ideology and religion are united in hating and sabotaging democracy and prosperity if it doesn't involve organized resentment or organized prayer. They call for more nationalism in education, to prove just how unique we are. Ugh! Education has been exiled to Dapitan.

* * *

Comments at http://deanjorgebocobo.blogspot.com

Unreported complaints and news tips

READERS' ADVOCATE

Raul J. Palabrica

RIGHTLY or wrongly, the media are perceived as the "court of last resort" by people who have grievances against the government or private companies. When complaints of inefficiency or poor service do not get the attention they deserve, the affected parties run to newspapers or broadcast stations for relief.

By force of circumstance, the media have been forced to take on a role that properly belongs to the government. Troubleshooting has become a part of news dissemination.

Although this column is intended to address concerns about the newspaper's handling of news and photos, I regularly get e-mail and letters from readers describing their bad experiences with certain government officials, private businesses, sometimes even the activities of their neighbors.

Often, they ask that a reporter be sent to investigate their complaint and write about it to catch the attention of the affected party or, if that is not feasible, to publish their letter in the Letters section. In the latter case, they request that their identities be withheld for fear of retaliation from the target of their complaint.

Last week, I received several e-mail calling my attention to the newspaper's failure to do something about the subject of the letter-complaints they sent me earlier. One wrote about her agonizing experience when she registered her jeepney in a regional office of the Land Transportation Office.

Another expressed her dismay over the defects in the mobile cellular unit he bought from a leading telecommunications company. Then there was this frantic complaint of a mother who claimed that her children were almost poisoned when they ate at a fast-food store inside a shopping mall.

Newspaper policy

They rebuked the INQUIRER for its inaction on their plea to give wide publicity to the incidents mentioned in their letters in order, to use their words, to "warn the public" or "expose the corrupt activities of government officials so they can be punished immediately."

The sender of the letter about their near poisoning in a fast-food store went further. She claimed that the INQUIRER did not publish her letter because it was afraid of losing the advertisements of that company.

The bottom line of the disgruntled readers' letters is the INQUIRER should act on their complaints regardless of their nature if it wants to maintain its credibility before the public.

I am not exactly convinced about the logic of that argument. But for the benefit of the readers who may think along the same line, I'll discuss the newspaper's policy on these matters.

Although part of the INQUIRER's mission is to provide a venue for airing legitimate complaints by the public, it has no intention of taking over the duties and responsibilities of the Ombudsman, National Bureau of Investigation or any government regulatory office.

The newspaper does not have the resources and personnel to go through letters about inefficient or corrupt government officials and send them to the proper investigating agencies. Reporting the news is its primary obligation. It has more than enough in its hands to be able to attend to activities that are better left to the people who have the expertise to handle them.

This is not to say that the INQUIRER is oblivious to reports of graft and corruption in some government offices. If the information given is credible and supported by documents, the newspaper will not hesitate to use it as lead for possible stories.

Unfortunately, many of the "confidential tips" the newspaper receives are based on hearsay or rumors. With the letter senders refusing to identify themselves or give their contact numbers, the information they provide is practically useless. The newspaper has better things to do than assign its reporters to go on wild goose chases.

Fair treatment

With regard to complaints against private companies, the newspaper treats them as consumer-related issues that can be best handled by its columnist on consumer concerns, Marietta Giron.

Thus, I send to her all the letters I receive that involve fair trade practices, customer services and the like. It's up to her to decide whether or not to print those letters in her column or say something about them. She has the expertise to figure out which complaints are valid and which are part of a letter-writing campaign to downgrade certain products.

If the letter relates to a complained of product or service that may adversely affect the public, such as defective reconditioned right-hand drive cars or harmful children's toys, and there are documents to prove the defects pointed out, the newspaper may consider it for publication as straight news.

In this case, the reporter assigned to write the story is instructed to get the side of the persons or companies that produce or provide the defective product or poor service. The news report will be put on hold until the other side is taken. If the affected party refuses to give his side for one reason or another, that fact will be included in the news report.

These efforts are taken to make sure that when the damaging story comes out, the adversely affected party cannot accuse the newspaper of being one-sided or unfair in its reporting.

With this explanation, I hope the readers who think the INQUIRER is an extension of the complaints department of the government will understand why their letter-complaints seem not to be getting their desired results.

* * *

The readers' advocate may be reached at the following address: "The Readers' Advocate" c/o Philippine Daily Inquirer, Chino Roces Avenue corner Yague and Mascardo Streets, Makati City. Or through fax nos. 897-4793 to 94, or readersadvocate@inquirer.com.ph.

THEY SAID

Cleaning their ranks

"It might look embarrassing for the entire police force to have some members found positive for drug use. But we have to cleanse our ranks."

—Senior Supt. Rodolfo Magtibay on two policemen found positive for drugs

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MMDA has planted close to 2 million trees in the NCR

LETTERS PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER

ALLEGATIONS have been hurled against the Metro Manila Development Authority that it is anti-environment because it will ball (not cut) the trees in Katipunan Avenue. Please allow us to directly address the issue by listing down the things we have done for the environment that will hopefully belie these accusations.

From 1988 until June 1992, under the Luntian Kamaynilaan program of former President Corazon Aquino, a total of 480,000 trees were planted in the National Capital Region. Although the program was spearheaded by the PMS, the MMDA (then MMC) personnel were at the forefront of the planting activities providing the manpower complement of the program. It was also during that time that the MMDA initiated the formation of the L-Belt Coalition covering schools and commercial establishments along Aurora Boulevard from the NCBA to Katipunan up to UP Diliman. The MMDA harnessed the youth in environmental endeavors and the coalition planted seedlings within the premises of commercial establishments and inside the campuses.

During the term of then President Fidel Ramos, the MMDA chaired the Clean and Green program of the government in Metro Manila. As the lead agency, the MMDA initiated the planting of 1,340,000 trees in Metro Manila.

Up to the present, MMDA personnel are taking the lead in landscaping Edsa and C-5 as well as cleaning the *esteros* and waterways of Metro Manila, including the rehabilitation of the Pasig River.

We wish to say that what we are doing in Katipunan is part of the objective of the MMDA to put order in the roadways that includes the planting, or in this case, the replanting of trees in appropriate places.

We reiterate the commitment of the MMDA toward an environment-friendly metropolis.

—ELIZABETH ESPINO,
director, Metro Manila Development Authority,
MMDA Bldg., Edsa cor. Orense Street, Guadalupe, Makati City

Marikina hospital sends apologies

THIS is in response to the letter of Cesar Basco, a resident of San Roque, Marikina City titled "Boorish guards at Marikina hospital" last June 19.

Please be apprised that we don't tolerate such behavior and disrespect from our security guards. Unfortunately, no such complaints have been raised before the proper hospital authorities but rest assured such acts shall not remain unpunished.

But we extend our sincerest apologies to Basco and the rest of our clientele for the discomfort this has caused them. In our desire to institute reforms in the hospital as a "center for wellness" and as part of the upgrading of the Amang Rodriguez Medical Center in terms of standards of service, we implemented the policy of a dress code within the premises of the hospital. The public should bear with this policy and the security guards are strictly directed to enforce this policy. However, any misdemeanor in the execution of this policy by our security guards will not be tolerated.

We shall continue to deliver an efficient and quality delivery of health services to the people.

—ROLAND CORTEZ, M.D., MHA,
medical center chief II,
Amang Rodriguez Medical Center,
Marikina City

Speed up LRT Line 2 operation

I WOULD like to ask the government to speed up the construction and full operation of the LRT Line 2 which runs between Santolan, Pasig and Anonas in Project 3, Quezon City.

There have been negative articles about it, specifically on the alleged large chunk of money spent to fast-track its launch on April 5.

I believe though that we should be thankful that another mass commuter system is servicing the public.

I heard the coaches will start running from 5:30 a.m. to 9 p.m. soon in contrast to the 5:30 a.m. to 9 a.m. and 4:30 p.m. to 8 p.m. schedule when the system was opened on April 5.

We can just imagine what a nightmare it would be if those commuters who have chosen to take the LRT were to jostle for passenger seats in jeeps, buses or even taxicabs.

The LRT Line 2 definitely augments the traffic rerouting plan of the Metro Manila Development Authority on Marcos Highway that traverses the cities of Marikina, Pasig and Antipolo, and the town of Cainta.

—ENRICO SANTOS,
Manotoc Subdivision,
Sto. Niño, Marikina City

Not capricious or biased selection

THE NATIONAL Commission for Culture and the Arts (NCCA) would like to express its disappointment over the publication of some inaccuracies made by artist Mauro Malang Santos in Neal Cruz's column of June 13.

We would like to dispel the misconception that the selection process for National Artists is capricious and biased. It is not true that the National Artist Awards are "controlled by people with an ax to grind," because the selection process is attended by a council of the artists' peers. Great pains are taken to ensure that this Council of Peers is composed of representatives from all artistic disciplines from all regions of the country.

The accomplishments of each nominee are carefully researched and verified so as to eliminate spurious attributions and hearsay. The members of the Council of Peers then vote for the nominees based on the merit of the nominees' documented works and achievements.

The selection procedure itself is a very democratic process that places the highest importance on the recommendation of the artists' peers, who are the best judges of who deserves to be awarded as National Artist. It is for this reason as well as for the sake of fairness and democracy that the NCCA and CCP prefer nominations from respected artists' groups, rather than on the decision of an arbitrarily chosen board of judges.

Decisions are collective at all levels and no one person has the sole authority to decide for or against any nominee.

Neither is it true that the National Artist Awards are "scraping the bottom of the barrel" and "becoming a laughingstock." All of these year's National Artists, without exception, are highly acclaimed and deeply respected in their individual fields of expertise. As for the claim that "dead artists are being resurrected," we believe that the proper list of winners speaks for itself as there is only one posthumous awardee.

—MARIA FINA C. YONZON,
executive director,
National Commission for Culture and the Arts,
633 Gen. Luna St., Intramuros, Manila

From a Makati tunnel victim's brother

MY name is Michael L. de los Reyes, brother of Joseph L. de los Reyes, who died in the Ayala underpass on April 14.

While no one will be able to give reason for the senseless death of my brother that April morning, Isagani Cruz's column gave me a glimmer of hope that through people like him, ordinary citizens are made aware of the real dangers that exist in our streets. A road accident such as the one we experienced is never expected, much more the sudden loss of a loved one. I think that the real tragedy is that the authorities (if we can call them that) could have done something about this hazard a long time ago but chose to sit on their hands until, as Cruz mentioned, someone had to lose his/her life to prove the obvious.

Many have suggested that we file a case against the government and/or the contractor but the family has decided against this. We could not live with the idea of going through the trauma of a long court case for years. We are neither a rich nor influential family that can take on corporate greed and government cover-ups. My brother's widow has much more to worry about than trying to obtain "justice" from an obviously flawed judicial system.

There is nothing more that I can add to what Cruz wrote except maybe to put a human face on the second fatality of that accursed tunnel. Joseph was 28 years old when he died, a successful professional who was halfway through his MBA studies at the University of the Philippines. He is survived by his wife and a one-and-a-half-year-old child, who were the loves of his life. He also left behind a multitude of people whose lives he touched—family, friends, officemates, classmates, church members—as well as unfinished dreams that we will not be able to share with him anymore.

On behalf of my family, I would like to express our appreciation for Cruz's brave column. We will never get my brother back but at least, Cruz's words may save other families from the pain and mourning that we will carry the rest of our lives.

Thank you Mr. Cruz and may Jesus bless you and your family.

—MICHAEL L. DE LOS REYES,
gravityboots@hotmail.com

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The WORLD

Editor Luverne B. Guec

Pope tells divided Bosnia: Don't give up

BANJA LUKA, Bosnia-Herzegovina—Pope John Paul II reached out to this embittered Balkan nation on Sunday, offering empathy for Bosnians' "burden of suffering" and their efforts to overcome ethnic divisions.

Enfeebled by Parkinson's disease and hip and knee ailments, the 83-year-old Pope urged rival Muslim Bosnians, Roman Catholic Croats and Orthodox Serbs to search their hearts, put their differences behind them and forge a lasting multiethnic society.

John Paul was greeted by the Serb, Croat and Muslim members of Bosnia's joint presidency at Banja Luka's airport before being wheeled on a cart in withering heat to "dearly greet and embrace all of you dear people living in different parts of Bosnia-Herzegovina."

"I know the long ordeal which you have endured, the burden of suffering that is a daily part of your lives," John Paul said in Serbian. "Do not give up. Certainly, starting afresh is not easy. It requires sacrifice and steadfastness if society is to take on a truly human face and everyone is to look to the future with confidence.

"It is necessary to rebuild man from within, healing wounds and achieving genuine purification of memory through mutual forgiveness," the Pope said. "The root of every good—and, sadly, every evil—is in the depths of the heart. It is there that change must occur."

The Pope also expressed the hope that in the future, Bosnia will realize its aspirations to join a united Europe.

Eight years after Bosnia's devastating 1992-95 war, which killed an estimated 250,000 people and made refugees of 1.8 million others, the country remains under international administration as it struggles to overcome ethnic divisions and catch up with the rest of Europe.

John Paul's visit was "a strong message to the public of Bosnia-Herzegovina, to the region, to Europe and to the world that we are moving down a new road," said Zoran Djeric, the Bosnian Serb interior minister.

"There is a new breeze here," he said. "We are ready for the integration that lies ahead of us to become truly a part of Europe . . . Bad times and bad people are history."

Sunday's visit was John Paul's second to Bosnia and the 101st foreign pilgrimage of his nearl 25-year papacy. It comes just tw weeks after a grueling five-da tour of neighboring Croatia. Th Pope visited the capital, Sarajevo in 1997.

In his Mass at the monastery o Petricevac, which was blown u by Serbs during the war, Joh Paul planned to beatify Iva Merz, a Catholic theologian wh took a vow of celibacy and devoted his life to the church in the early 1900s.

A

US bishops insist reforms on track

ST. LOUIS—Ending a turbulent week marred by public disputes, America's Roman Catholic bishops professed confidence Saturday that their reforms for dealing with clergy sex abuse are on track.

"My brother bishops and I remain committed to all we promised" in a reform plan approved a year ago, Bishop Wilton Gregory of Belleville, Illinois, president of the US Conference of Catholic Bishops, said in a news conference following the conclusion of the bishops' semiannual meeting.

Archbishop Harry Flynn of St. Paul and Minneapolis, chair of a committee handling the abuse crisis, told the meeting the hierarchy had made "a monumental effort" to apply the reforms, remove clergy molesters from active ministry and restore confidence among priests and laity.

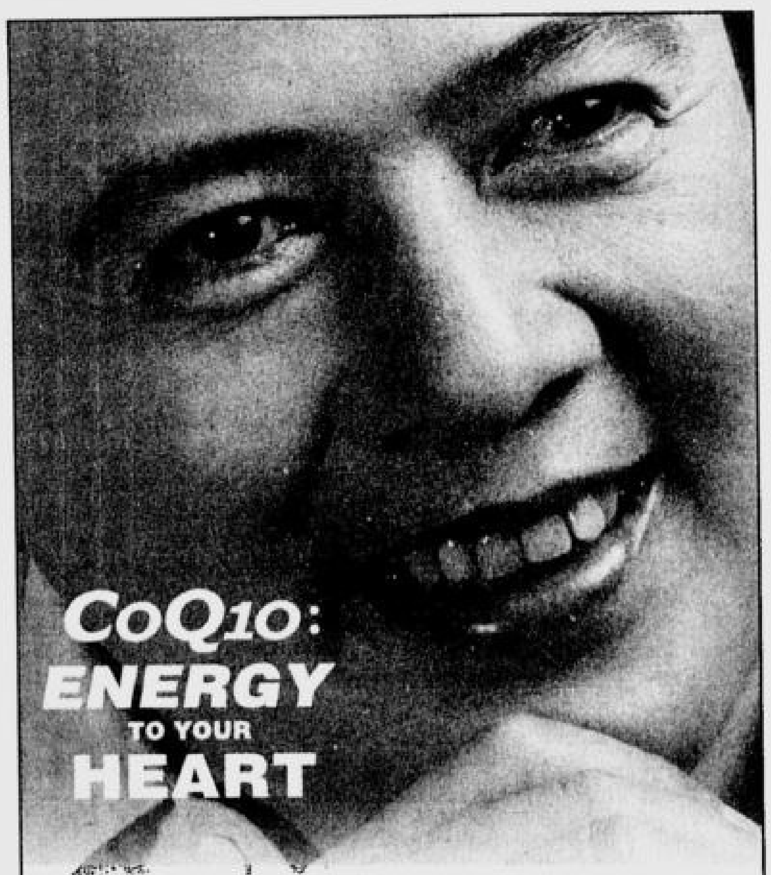
"Our commitment has not wavered," Flynn insisted.

The assurances cap a week that began when the chair of the National Review Board, an independent lay board that monitors the bishops' performance in following the reforms, accused some of not cooperating and quit. Lobbies of lay Catholics and abuse victims who also gathered in St. Louis during the bishops' meeting added to the criticism.

Two pivotal projects are under way: questionnaires that bishops are supposed to file with the National Review Board detailing all abuse cases for a national report on the extent of the crisis, and an audit of the nation's 195 dioceses to see if they are complying with the reforms.

Los Angeles Cardinal Roger Mahony had led California's bishops in refusing to file a report answering the questionnaire, saying it would violate the state's privacy laws. However, the Californians announced Thursday they would encrypt the report, removing any legal problem.

AP



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MESSAGE

I greet the Academic community of Holy Trinity Academy on your 56th Foundation Anniversary. This occasion touches on the vitality of your living past. It also presents the hope of your future, the hope that is imbued with your commitment to educate and form our youth.

Every school, especially a Catholic School, has a very crucial role to play in today's society. In your hands lie the direction of our Church and country. It is for this reason that I challenge you to examine the past 56 years and ask if the journey has yielded a harvest pleasing to God and contributive of Philippine society. Anniversary celebrations are only meaningful if they help us improve our journey and mission.

May this year's celebration be a time for you to grow in the vision of Christ's glory. We grow in this vision by continuing the transformation of the world to become a living reflection of the Kingdom. We are God's people. We are different than all who have no place for God in their lives. We are transformed, a new creation because of our faith and love in God.

Happy Anniversary! God bless you always!

Jaime Card. Sin
+ JAIME L. CARDINAL SIN, D.D.
Archbishop of Manila

VISION:

Holy Trinity Academy is a Catholic parochial school founded in 1947. The Institution participates in the evangelizing mission of the Church and serves as a partner of the Most Holy Trinity Parish in building Christ-centered community. Inspired by the values of Unity, Love and Equality, the institution endeavors to become a dynamic instrument of social transformation by offering integral quality education to form committed, productive and service-oriented Christians who are academically competent and responsive to the challenges of the times.

MISSION:

Guided by this vision, HTA will become a model parochial school that offers a relevant, student and family-centered curriculum with Religion at the core, integrates institutional values of Love, Unity, and Equality, and imbues learners with a sense of social responsibility.

PROGRAMME

Day 1 - June 23, 2003 (Monday)
7:30 AM - Parade
9:30 AM - Field Demonstration (G. S. Grounds)
1:30 PM - Fun Day

Day 2 - June 25, 2003 (Wednesday)
8:00 AM - Mini-fair
Opening Prayer
Cutting of Ribbon
Declaration of the Opening of Mini-fair
2:00 PM - Dance Contest "Groove to the Beat"

Day 3 - June 26, 2003 (Thursday)
8:00 AM - Mini-fair
2:00 PM - Singing Contest "HTA Star Search"
7:00 PM - Variety Show "56 Na Ako"

Day 4 - June 27, 2003 (Friday)
8:00 AM - Mini-fair
2:00 PM - Rap Contest "Rap Masters Talastasan"
7:00 PM - Variety Show "56 Na Ako"
9:00 PM - Recognition
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from the previous years
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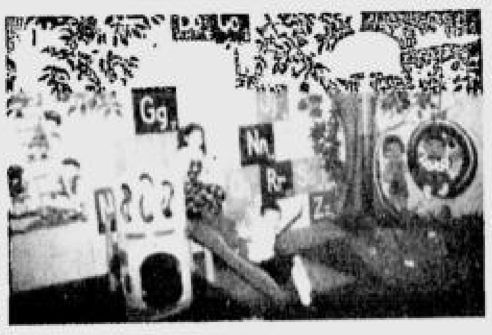

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Billions in Iraqi assets, but where are Saddam's?

GENEVA—Iraqi assets worth hundreds of millions of dollars have been found in European and Middle Eastern banks in a global search for Saddam Hussein's riches, but little if anything has his name on it.

Lebanon, Britain and Switzerland have each found about half a billion dollars in Iraqi assets, but it is not clear to whom the money belongs beyond official Iraqi government accounts.

"There's no way Saddam Hussein would have opened an account in his own name," said James Nason of the Swiss Bankers Association, whose members are required to report any suspicious accounts to the government of Switzerland.

The United States, which launched the search for Saddam's wealth the day after the US-led invasion started in March, acknowledges that finding the hidden assets will be very difficult.

"The greatest challenge lies in identifying and tracing the flow of funds that (Saddam) Hussein has stolen and injected into the international financial system," David D. Aufhauser, general counsel of the US treasury department, told Congress last month.

Estimates of Saddam's wealth have ranged from $2 billion to $40 billion. The US-funded International Campaign to Indict Iraqi War Criminals, said much of the money was sent out of Iraq through a network of people who were given the money to invest or keep the money until it was needed.

Treasury Undersecretary John B. Taylor told the Senate foreign relations committee earlier this month that the total Iraqi assets found and frozen outside the United States since March 20 was $1.2 billion. That comes on top of $1.1 billion frozen outside the United States since 1990.

Iraqi assets found outside the United States—although it is not clear that all of them have been frozen—add up to $3 billion.

Aufhauser said the US government, which has dispatched teams of investigators to other countries, had pressed more than 50 governments to join in the search.

"International assistance is needed to track the illicit assets of Hussein, his family, his cronies and the front companies and straw men they used," Aufhauser said.

The United States is treating all assets from Saddam's regime as suspect. Washington has already sent Iraqi assets it has seized in US banks to Iraq to help pay for essential services.

Other countries are awaiting United Nations instructions on exactly whose money to seize.

But the Bush administration says it is pleased with the response of other countries.

"Countries around the world, not just the United States, understand the needs of the Iraqi people and understand that this money is to be returned to the Iraqi people," US treasury department spokesperson Taylor Griffin said. "Countries understand that, countries are responding, and we are very pleased to see that."

The Security Council resolution on postwar Iraq passed last month requires countries to seize funds from the government as well as from officials of the regime and "immediately cause their transfer to the Development Fund for Iraq," which is to be controlled by Britain and the United States.

However, the Security Council still hasn't released a list of names so that governments can act.

Othmar Wyss, spokesperson for the Swiss State Secretariat for Economic Affairs, said Switzerland already had protectively frozen suspect assets but was awaiting the formal UN blacklist.

"We want to avoid giving figures that will subsequently have to be corrected downward because they involve accounts of people who are not on the list of the UN sanctions committee," Wyss said.

On Tuesday, the United States will forward a list of more than 50 senior Iraqi officials whose assets should be frozen to a UN Security Council committee, council diplomats said Friday in New York. *AP*

Videotape warns of al-Qaida attacks, says Bin Laden alive

ISLAMABAD, Pakistan—A masked militant, speaking in a video filmed in a mud hut, warns of new al-Qaida suicide attacks and says Osama bin Laden's terror network carried out deadly bombings in Saudi Arabia and Morocco.

If authentic, the video would be the first al-Qaida claim of responsibility for the suicide attacks on foreign housing compounds in Riyadh, which killed 26 people and nine attackers, and bombings in Casablanca that killed 43 people and 12 attackers.

Obtained Saturday by The Associated Press, the video also appeared to reflect an increasing alliance between three top opponents of the United States in Afghanistan: al-Qaida; the remnants of the former Taliban regime; and the followers of Gulbuddin Hekmatyar, an Afghan rebel leader whom the United States calls a terrorist and has tried to kill.

The man on the scratchy videocassette, who identified himself as Abu Haris Abdul Hakim, said he speaks in the name of all three groups. He spoke in Arabic, but did not give his nationality. His face was covered by a black turban.

The videotape was obtained from a senior intelligence official in Hekmatyar's Hezb-e-Islami organization. The official confirmed that the speaker on the tape was speaking for Hekmatyar's party, which he said was working with al-Qaida and the Taliban.

The White House declined to comment on the video Saturday.

The speaker in the tape says al-Qaida is active and planning new attacks this month, saying, "Osama is alive and in Afghanistan." Though he suggests the attacks will take place in Afghanistan, he also points to wider operations.

"The recent attacks in Riyadh and Morocco were planned and they were part of our martyrdom operations. You will see more such attacks in the future," the speaker in the video said.

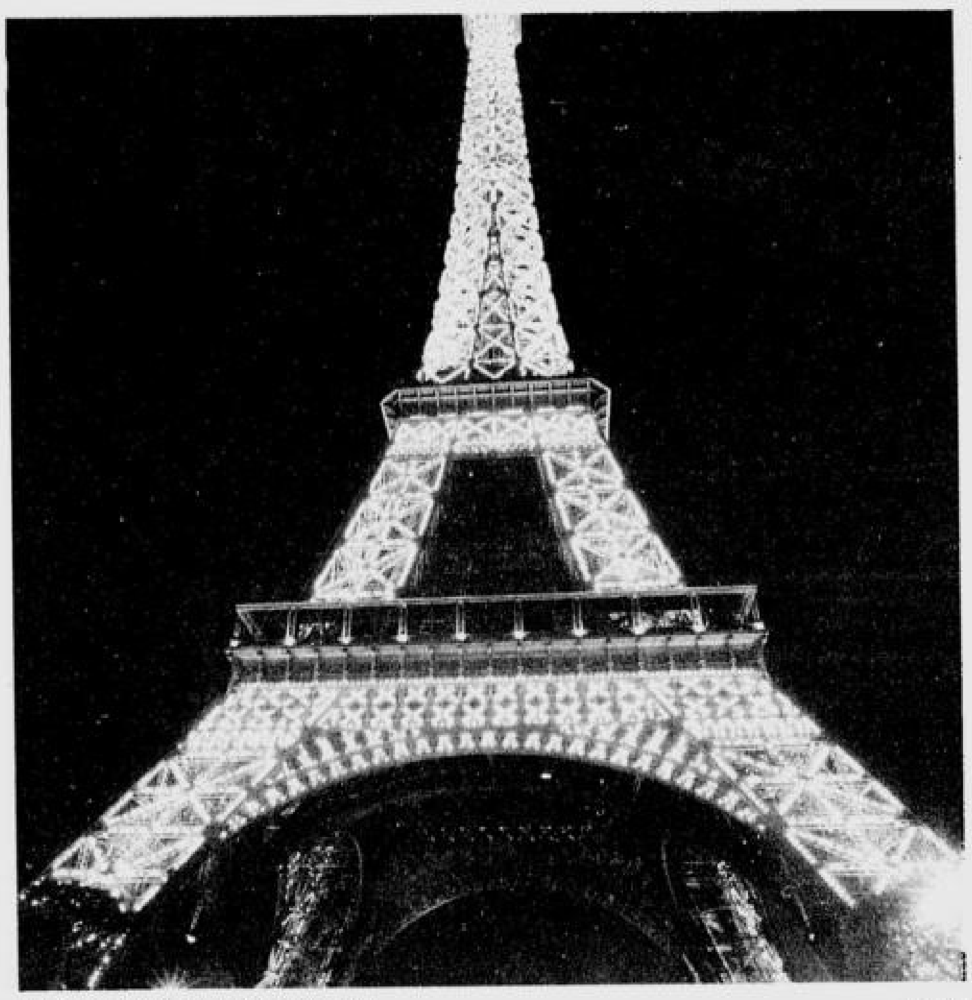
Saudi and US officials have blamed al-Qaida for the Riyadh attacks. Moroccan authorities say an international terrorism ring carried out the Casablanca attacks, and they are looking at possible links to al-Qaida.

At one point, the man holds up a crudely written sign that says June 14th, apparently a reference to the date it was made—though it was impossible to confirm.

"Oh our brothers in Palestine, Chechnya, Kashmir and Iraq: We will have good news for you very soon. And it will be about our supremacy over the Americans. This will be in the shape of martyrdom (suicide) attacks against Americans in the current month," Hakim said.

Insurgents in Afghanistan have stepped up their attacks against US forces in recent months. On Saturday, US forces flooded into a region in northeastern Afghanistan, near the border, to stop infiltrators from Pakistan carrying out attacks.

The speaker said the coming attacks would mimic those carried out in the Afghan cities and towns of Kabul, Kandahar and Spinboldak. On June 7, an explosive-laden taxi rammed a bus carrying German peacekeepers in Kabul, killing four Germans and an Afghan civilian. *AP*



PARIS TWINKLES AGAIN REUTERS

Thousands of new bulbs make the enduring symbol of the City of Light twinkle again in Paris on June 21 almost two years after wear-and-tear darkened the Eiffel Tower's lighting system. The 20,000 new lights on the tower recreate a glittering display originally meant to show off one of the world's most visited tourist sites on the night of the Millennium. The tower will be engulfed in twinkling lights for 10 minutes at the start of every hour from dusk until one or two each morning for the next decade.

India test fires short-range missile

NEW DELHI—India on Sunday test fired a short-range surface-to-air missile capable of targeting aircraft and sea-skimming missiles, Press Trust of India (PTI) news agency said.

The missile, named Trishul, or spear, has a range of up to 9 km and a radar guidance system, PTI said.

The test launch is unlikely to affect the confidence-building measures under way by longtime nuclear-armed rivals India and Pakistan. Both carry out such tests routinely.

India has conducted four missile tests in the past month. The other three were of the surface-to-air missile Akash with a range of 25 km.

Developed by the state-run Defense Research and Development Organization, the missile was fired from a mobile launcher in the eastern Indian state of Orissa. *AP*

Explosion hits another vital Iraq pipeline

BAGHDAD—An oil fire raged on Sunday after an explosion hit a vital pipeline linking Iraq's northern and southern oilfields, threatening supplies to Baghdad's main refinery and fresh torment for drivers in the capital.

It was the second major fire to damage Iraqi oil pipelines this month. US officials blamed the first on a gas leak on the main export pipeline from the Kirkuk oilfields to Turkey.

Footage on Al Jazeera television showed orange fireballs and thick black smoke pouring from the latest pipeline blast near the town of Hit, 140 km northwest of Baghdad.

A US military spokesperson said troops reported the fire at 11 p.m. on Saturday, and efforts were under way to put it out. He could not say what had caused the explosion, but said there were no reports of casualties.

An Iraqi oil ministry official said output at Baghdad's al-Doura refinery could be affected. He had no word on the blast, but said: "If true, we will have to rely on crude from the south where oil installations are in very bad condition."

Al-Doura refinery, just south of Baghdad, has a current capacity of 80,000 barrels.

It is the main refinery serving the capital, where motorists have barely had time to forget the misery of petrol queues that snaked through the sweltering capital for weeks following its conquest by US troops on April 9.

It was not clear whether sabotage had caused the latest explosion, but a land mine blast wounded two US soldiers not far away on Saturday afternoon, the military spokesperson said.

The soldiers, from the 3rd Armored Cavalry, were hurt when their Humvee vehicle struck a mine in Hit.

US forces have been plagued by hit-and-run attacks in the Sunni Muslim towns such as Hit, north and west of Baghdad, where Saddam Hussein's government had its tribal roots.

Eighteen American soldiers have been killed in hostile action since major combat was declared over in Iraq on May 1, and insecurity has hampered efforts to revive the economy. *Reuters*

November 19-22, 2003 • Baguio City

18th Advertising Congress launches website

what's the big idea

Be ready to surf and be in!

For the latest news on the most awaited event in the advertising industry this year, the official website of the 18th Philippine Advertising Congress (PAC) is now up. Check out www.18thpac.com and get a grip on the 'Big Idea.'

Designed by the Web designers of Inq7.net, the website serves as a virtual gateway to the Ad Congress.

This year's Ad Congress will run from November 19 to 22 at the CAP Convention Center, Camp John Hay in Baguio City. Organizing this year's Congress are the Kapisanan ng mga Brodkaster sa Pilipinas (KBP), United Print Media Group (UPMG), Outdoor Advertising Association of the Philippines (OAAP), Independent Broadcasting Association (IBA) and Cinema Advertising Association of the Philippines (CAAP).

"Aside from offering 24/7 access to information about the Ad Congress, the website is designed to accept online registration and payments for the Congress," said David Valdes, chair of the 18th PAC PR & Publicity website committee.

Registration for the Congress will soon be much easier especially for participants coming from outside of Metro Manila. Instead of mailing checks or sending cash, participants can use their Citibank Visa or Mastercard to pay for their Congress registration fee. No added fees will be charged to registrants who use the service. The online registration facility is expected to be operational in a few weeks.

The site will also feature a unique service called "The Event Secretary." This virtual secretary can help you remember all the exciting Ad Congress events that you may want to attend. Congress participants can select the activities that they want to be reminded on and the secretary will send them an SMS text message 30 minutes before that event to remind them.

The website also offers easy-to-access information on the Congress. Want to know the people behind this year's big event? Just click on the "Who's Who" page and get features on the industry experts who form the executive committee of the 18th Philippine Advertising Congress.

The 'Big Force' is headed by ABS-CBN chairman Gabby Lopez who will be assisted by Congress vice chair Paciencia Pineda, vice chair and Oversight Committee chair Jose Y. Sy, Administrative Committee chair Dodie Lucas, Creative Committee chair David Guerrero, Finance Committee chair Patricia Arches, PR and Publicity Committee chair Miguel Belmonte, Program Committee chair Andre S. Kahn, and Ways and Means Committee chair Menlou Bibonia.

Surfers will be amazed at the 'Big Ideas' shared by some of the industry experts in the 'Big Opinions' section of the website. They will also discover how the executive committee got together to form a dynamic team in "Big News".

Those who wish to know more about the activities lined-up for the Congress can download a list from the website. A photo gallery of the 18th PAC's ongoing events is also open for viewing.

www.18thpac.com

Man's arrest mars William's birthday

LONDON—A man was arrested inside Windsor Castle as members of the royal family attended a party there to celebrate the 21st birthday of Prince William, police said Sunday.

The Metropolitan Police said the man was not armed when he was detained at about 11:30 p.m. on Friday, as around 300 guests enjoyed the African-themed party at the castle.

The News of the World newspaper reported that the man stumbled on to the stage where Prince William was making a speech to thank his father, Prince Charles, and his grandmother, Queen Elizabeth II, for organizing the party.

The newspaper said the man grabbed the microphone before security guards and police pulled him away and took him out of the Great Hall.

Police said the man was being held in custody and a review of security at the function had already begun. They declined to comment further on the incident.

William, who is teaching himself Swahili and has been on safari in Africa several times, had chosen the "Out of Africa" costume party to celebrate his birthday because he wanted to avoid a "sterile" official function.

Guests at the party included several members of the royal family, the prince's university friends and celebrities such as comedian Rowan Atkinson, better known as the character "Mr. Bean."

In the latest of a series of interviews to mark his birthday, William said he believed he was born to be king, takes his royal duties seriously and views his grandmother, the queen, as an inspirational role model.

William crushed newspaper speculation that he did not want to be crowned.

"All these questions about 'do you want to be king?' It's not a question of wanting to be, it's something I was born into and it's my duty," the young prince, who is second in line to the throne, told the British news agency, Press Association in an interview released Sunday.

"But those stories about me not wanting to be king are all wrong. It's a very important role and it's one that I don't take lightly." *AP*

WORLDBRIEFS

Hamas vows bloody revenge

GAZA CITY—The radical Palestinian group Hamas vowed on Sunday to extract bloody revenge for the killing of its top West Bank official in what Israeli Prime Minister Ariel Sharon characterized as a "successful operation." In another violent incident, a suspected Palestinian militant was shot dead near a Jewish settlement in the southern Gaza Strip, even as the Middle East quartet of diplomatic powers was preparing to meet in Jordan to give a boost to their flailing peace "road map." Senior Hamas official Abdulaziz al-Rantissi said Sunday that the killing late Saturday of Abdullah Qawasmeh by an elite Israeli borderguard unit which had apparently gone to arrest him in the divided southern West Bank city of Hebron "will not go unpunished." *Reuters*

HK awaits SARS-free certificate

HONG KONG—Hong Kong reported no new SARS cases on Sunday, paving the way for the World Health Organization to remove the territory from its list of SARS-infected areas. Sunday was the 20th day since the last confirmed SARS patient in Hong Kong was hospitalized, and WHO was expected to remove the territory from its list as soon as Monday, health officials said. Hong Kong's death toll from Severe Acute Respiratory Syndrome remained at 296, with 49 people still hospitalized or about to be discharged. *AP*

8 killed in Nepal clash

KATMANDU—Seven Maoists and a civilian were killed in a gunfight between rebels and the Army last week in western Nepal during the deadliest clash since the two sides entered a ceasefire in January, an official said Sunday. *AFP*

Anti-globalization activist arrested

RODEZ, France—French militant farmer Jose Bove was taken into custody Sunday to begin a 10-month jail term for destroying genetically modified crops, officials and his lawyer said. Police apprehended Bove at 6 a.m., said an official with the Rodez prefectural office. Bove served about six weeks in jail in 2002 for ransacking a McDonald's restaurant construction site. *AP*

Emotional farewell to Mahathir

KUALA LUMPUR—Malaysia's ruling party bade an emotional farewell to outgoing Prime Minister Mahathir Mohamad at the weekend and set its sights on a smooth transition of power ahead of an electoral challenge by Islamic hardliners. Coming to grips with a future without the veteran premier of 22 years, the United Malays National Organization pledged at its annual assembly to rally behind his deputy and anointed successor Abdullah Ahmad Badawi, who takes over the helm in October. *AFP*

Queen's new representative named

CANBERRA—Prime Minister John Howard on Sunday appointed a former career military officer and war hero as the new Australian representative of Britain's Queen Elizabeth II, the nation's head of state. Michael Jeffery, 66, will take over as governor general of Australia in August, replacing Peter Hollingworth who resigned last month amid two separate sex scandals that had undermined public faith in his ability to perform the duties of the post. *AP*

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Check out shabu lab, mayor told

BACOLOR, Pampanga—President Macapagal-Arroyo on Thursday ordered Mayor Romeo Dungca to check reports about the existence of a shabu laboratory in this town.

Summoning Dungca and then asking the media to briefly leave the house in nearby Guagua town where she held a consultation with local officials, she talked to the mayor in private.

In the meeting, which took less than 10 minutes, Dungca said the President voiced out concern about the so-called shabu laboratory in Bacolor.

"She told me a (Protestant) pastor gave her the tip," the mayor told the INQUIRER.

Dungca declined to give details but said he immediately assured Ms Macapagal that no such facility operated in the town and that he would have the reports verified. "She was worried," Dungca said.

The last shabu laboratory busted in Pampanga was in 1998 in Magalang. Police said Chinese used a piggery as cover for the manufacture of methamphetamine hydrochloride or shabu.

On several instances, police nabbed suspected drug dealers using the Bacolor Stretch of the Gapan-San Fernando-Olongapo Road as a delivery point.

Dungca said he initially met the President's information with disbelief because the town, at this point, was less inhabited.

Less than 10,000 families have opted to return to five of 28 villages swamped by Mt. Pinatubo's lahar in October 1995. More than 300,000 residents live in five resettlement sites in the province.

But Dungca said he changed his mind, adding that while 18 barangays were enclosed by the 56-km FVR Megadike and largely deserted to this day, the remoteness of these areas could be suitable for illicit activities.

On numerous occasions, bodies were found dumped in the lahar areas of Bacolor, Minalin and Porac towns.

In Tabaco City, Mayor Alex Burce announced his approval of a P1-million fund and the purchase of equipment to be used in catching the "big fish" among drug traders.

The equipment, costing about P800,000, consisted of four DT-125 Yamaha units, nine cellular phones, two base VHF radio transceivers and handheld radio transceivers. They were turned over to the city police on Monday. *Tonette Orejas, PDI Central Luzon Desk; Job Belen, PDI Southern Luzon Bureau*

Countdown for Justice

WAPILE

IT IS exactly 406 days today since Pagadian journalist Edgar Damalerio was slain in cold blood. The principal suspect, police officer Guillermo Wapile, remains at large after escaping while in the custody of the police.

Boy drops out of school due to bulging stomach

LIGAO CITY—He was an honor student from Grades 1 to 3, according to her teacher at the Bacong Elementary School.

Nine months ago, as he was in Grade 4, however, 11-year-old Anthony Milla began to suffer from abdominal pains and his stomach started to grow big.

His teacher, Cecilia Mendoza, advised his mother to stop Anthony from his schooling as it might aggravate his condition.

Evelyn Milla, Anthony's mother, could only agree with much pity on her son, who had grown thin and with bulging stomach.

At night, Evelyn said, Anthony was ill at ease and could not sleep because of the pain.

Roberto del Rosario, M.D., said Anthony could have liver cancer or bilary system failure. The bilary system connects the liver, gall gladder and intestine.

If not treated immediately, it might cause complications in the digestive organ, which could further worsen the boy's health, Del Rosario said.

But he said the boy needed further examination. The Department of Social Welfare and Development has requested the Philippine Charity Sweepstakes Office, through Mayor Fernando Gonzales, for an abdominal scan on Anthony. The scan would cost P8,000.

They are all still waiting for PCSO's reply.

Michael Jaucian, PDI Southern Luzon Bureau

Women in video scandal bring case to court

By Alex V. Pal and Romy G. Amarado
PDI Visayas Bureau

DUMAGUETE CITY—Two of the three women featured in the one-hour video called "Dumaguete Scandal" are fighting back against those who filmed them while making love with their boyfriends.

Mayor Agustin Perdices said relatives of these two women approached him to seek help in their quest for justice.

Perdices said he and City legal officer Neil Ray Lagahit would fly to Cebu and Manila to meet with the women and get their affidavits.

He said the affidavits were necessary in the filing of charges against the caretaker of a bunkhouse in Barangay Daro, where the sexual trysts were filmed in 1999.

The caretaker, a certain Kulas, was suspected as the one who filmed the trysts, because it was reportedly he who would receive the women and their boyfriends whenever they went to that house.

Copies of the videos now on compact discs are being sold at P40 to P100 per copy. Many of the CD buyers had reproduced the film and passed the copies on to their friends or relatives.

The videos showed the sexual trysts of several women and young men in a house with a hidden camera above the room.

Perdices said the city was planning to file charges against one of the male partners because of possible collusion between him and those behind the filming.

The mayor said the wife of a "male actor" met with him two weeks ago to say that her husband did not know that someone was filming his sexual trysts with his girlfriends.

Her husband was identified as the one who flashed the thumbs-up sign at the camera in one of the bed scenes.

A relative said he flashed his hand not at the camera but at Kulas, whom he thought was just peeping from a hole in the ceiling.

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Ebdane slams Lina on 'jueteng'

DAGUPAN CITY—Don't make police officers the scapegoat in the fight against jueteng.

This was the reminder of Director General Hermogenes Ebdane, Philippine National Police chief, to Interior Secretary Jose Lina after the dismissal of police officers for their failure to rid their areas of the illegal numbers game.

He said Lina must also go after local government officials who are "directly responsible" in the war against jueteng.

"If the police are guilty, then the local officials are also guilty because there is a commonality of responsibility," Ebdane, who was guest during the Dagupan Day celebration, said.

Jueteng is often the reason police officers are removed from their posts even if they have accomplished much in other areas of police work, Ebdane said.

He cited the case of Supt. Noli Talino, who asked to be relieved as Dagupan police chief when he learned that he was going to be dismissed because of the reported jueteng operations in the city.

"Talino is a classic example. He was relieved after he got national awards as a good police officer," he said.

Talino was dismissed two months ago after Task Force Jericho raided three jueteng dens in the city. He was reinstated last week, although it was not clear whether he had been cleared of the jueteng charges.

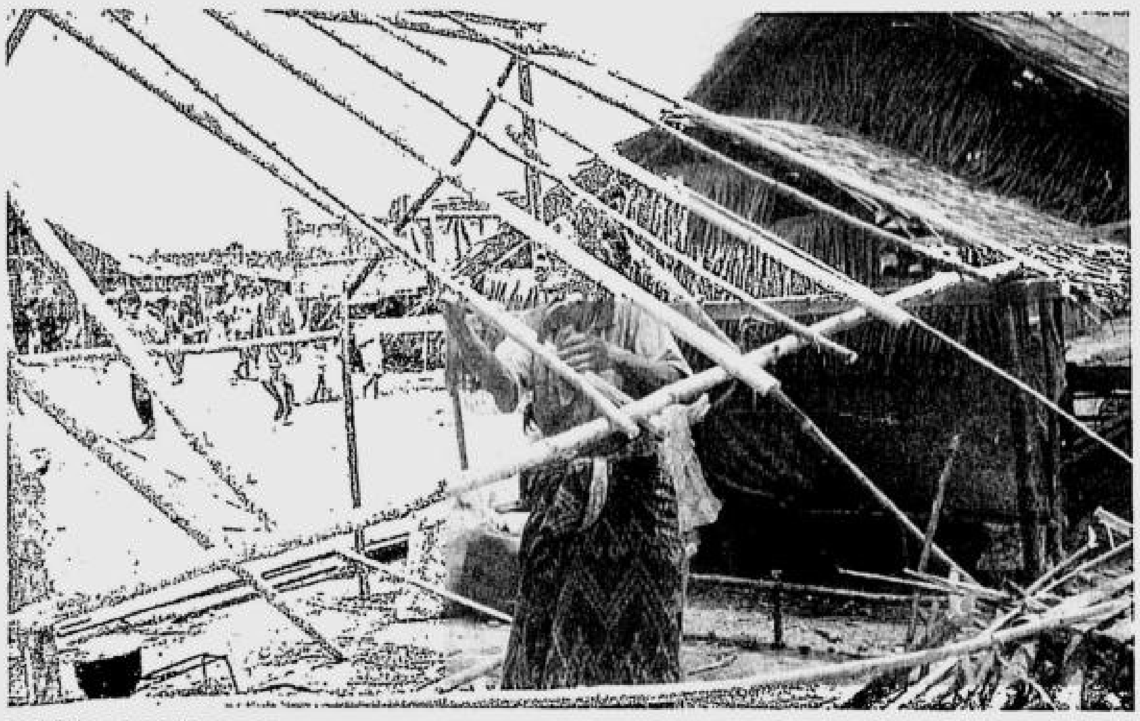
The membership of Task Force Jericho was changed four months ago, and "I will recommend that its membership be changed every six months," Ebdane said.

He said local officials who wanted to legalize jueteng would have to ask their congressmen to work on its legalization.

Mayor Benjamin Lim has proposed that jueteng be legalized and a certain percentage be given to local governments for local officials' social obligations and the police's capability building.

Bet collectors will be given commissions, like the sweepstakes ticket dealers, he said.

"I think with the present setup, only 30 to 40 percent of the total bets go to the winners and 60 percent go to the operators and for expenses. If legalized, 60 percent would go to the winners, 30 percent to operations and 10 percent to local governments and the police," he said. *Yolanda Fuertes, PDI Northern Luzon Bureau*



JEFFREY TUPAS/PDI MINDANAO BUREAU

BY HER LONESOME
With other family members busy elsewhere, this woman is left alone to dismantle her hut in the evacuation camp, where she and thousands of other families have been forced to leave and go back to their war-torn areas.

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Marcos heirs vow to regain assets

By Cristina Arzadon
PDI Northern Luzon Bureau

LAOAG CITY—The heirs of the late strongman Ferdinand Marcos have vowed to redeem their assets within a year before the government steps in and takes control of the seized properties.

Ilocos Norte Gov. Ferdinand Marcos. Jr. issued the statement on Wednesday after the Bureau of Internal Revenue failed to auction more than P112 million worth of Marcos properties in Manila and in Currimao, Ilocos Norte.

"We need to do something within one year so that these properties would not revert to the government. After a year, (the government) can occupy and do whatever it wants with the properties," Marcos told reporters.

He added: "We will have to come up with some kind of arrangement. Worse comes to worst, maybe we will wait for the next President because the President (Macapagal-Arroyo) right now does not want to deal with us."

Marcos had described the tax assessments imposed on his father's estate as "ridiculous," noting that the properties being taxed include assets that had been sequestered on allegations they were acquired through ill-gotten wealth.

The Marcos estate's tax obligations grew from P23 billion to P43 billion years after estate taxes and penalties were left unpaid.

"Why are we being taxed if we do not own these properties? If they want us to pay the taxes, then these should be returned to us. They cannot have them both ways," Marcos said.

The BIR placed the properties on auction hoping to raise funds for the government and cover part of the Marcoses' tax liabilities.

But bidders invited by the BIR did not show up during the public auction last week in Manila.

The local office of the BIR put up a separate auction last June 10 at the Currimao town hall where bidders were a no show as well.

Personnel from the BIR's collection and enforcement division supervised the auction.

The Marcos property in Currimao involves a five-hectare seaside lot reportedly valued at more than P40 million.

Asked to comment on the failed auction, Marcos said: "It's not really that interesting. If I were the businessman, I would not step into it because I know it involves a dispute between the BIR and the Marcoses. And then they will have to wait for one year before they can make use of the property."

ROUNDUP

Missing student

LUCENA CITY—A 20-year-old student of Sacred Heart College and who belongs to a prominent clan in San Francisco, Quezon has been reported missing, police said. Nilda Napenas, of San Francisco and residing at Barangay Ibabang Dupay, told police that her son, Erniel, was on his way to a birthday party aboard a dark green Mitsubishi Adventure model 2000 and bearing plate number VBM-728 when he disappeared. She said he was supposed to meet his friends Thursday evening in a gasoline station at the outskirts of the city but he never arrived. She said no one among her son's friends could tell Erniel's whereabouts. Police flashed an alarm for Erniel.
Delfin Mallari Jr., PDI Southern Luzon Bureau

Unfair competition

SUBIC, Zambales—Fishermen in this town said cheap imported fish and squid being sold in the town's market have affected their sale of local marine products. Members of the Calapandayan Fishermen Multipurpose Cooperative (CFMPC) said the entry of imported frozen fish and squid has created a competition that endangers small fishermen. Santiago de la Cruz, CFMPC business manager, said local fishermen have been hardly earning because they are forced to lower the prices of their products to match those of imported fish. *Allan Macatuno, PDI Central Luzon Desk*

Reds vs banned drugs

LUCENA CITY—Communist spokesperson Gregorio "Ka Roger" Rosal said his comrades have also been conducting their own measures to curb the illegal drugs trade. He chided President Macapagal-Arroyo's order for a three-month crackdown on drug syndicates. "How can she expect positive results when there are far simpler crimes than illegal drugs trade, which remain unchecked and even continue to flourish?" Rosal asked.
Delfin Mallari Jr., PDI Southern Luzon Bureau

50 Ways to Celebrate JUNE

36

23 June

HAJJI ALEJANDRO and **RICO J. PUNO**.
LONG and **DAGUL**.
At iba pang mga panalong kombinasyon.

CELEBRITY TWOSOME EDITION!

MILLION, MILLION NA! GAME KNB?

Monday to Friday after "TV Patrol"

37

24 June

Naging incredible green monster si Michael. To the rescue ang impaktitang si **JEAN GARCIA**. Huling hirit ng 1st anniversary celebration ng No. 1 comedy show!

HULK-KUNO meets IMPAKTITA

OK FINE, WHATEVER

Tuesday after "Sana'y Wala Nang Wakas"

38

25 June

Got 2 believe it! Guess who ang bagong girlfriend ni Ernest? Si **CLAUDINE BARRETTO**!

WHATTACLAUDINE!

WHATTAMEN

Wednesday after "Sana'y Wala Nang Wakas"

39

Monday-Friday after "GAME KNB?"

27 June

SUNOD-SUNOD NA PASABOG SA MGA BIDA NG GABI NIYO!

Ano kayang naghihintay sa pagbabalik-anyo ni Lorrea?

KAY TAGAL KANG HININTAY

Isang halik ang babago sa relasyon nina Ambet at Princess.

BASTA'T KASAMA KITA

40

Sa wakas, maghaharap-harap na sina Mira, Abel at Arriana.

DARATING ANG UMAGA

Malapit nang magkita ang mag-inang Elizabeth at Ara.

SANA'Y WALA NANG WAKAS

41

27 June

Television was her playground and she practically grew up before our eyes. A fairytale party awaits our little princess as she turns into a lady.

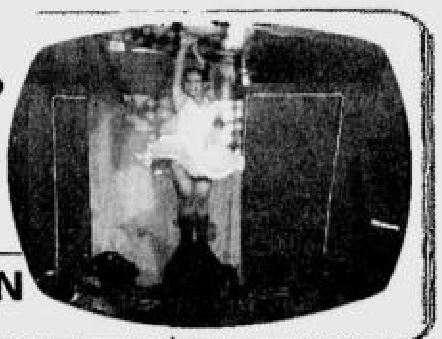
CAMILLE: PRINCESS at 18

Friday after "Sana'y Wala Nang Wakas"

42

28 June

Ang makapigil-hininga at kamangha-manghang **GRAND FINALS** ng **FLYING SEXY GIRL**.



MASAYANG TANGHALI BAYAN

Saturday after "Meteor Garden Rewind"

28 June

43

Magkaka-ayos na sina Meg at Lance. Pero mukhang magkaka-watak-watak naman ang grupo dahil sa mga bagong sekretong mailalantad.

MAKE UP AND BREAK UP

BUTTERCUP

This Saturday Only at 8:00 PM

28 June

44

F4 Rules! Today's hottest boy band in never-before-seen performances, interviews and behind-the-scene clips. Get to know them better with a little help from VJs **Luis Manzano** and **Heart Evangelista**.

1ST TIME! F4 EXCLUSIVE!

F4 FEVER

Saturday after "Buttercup"

29 June

45

It's been a great year for **CHARLENE!** And **AGA MUHLACH** leads the roster of her stellar guests.

1st ANNIVERSARY CELEBRATION

FEEL AT HOME with CHARLENE

Sunday - 10:30 AM

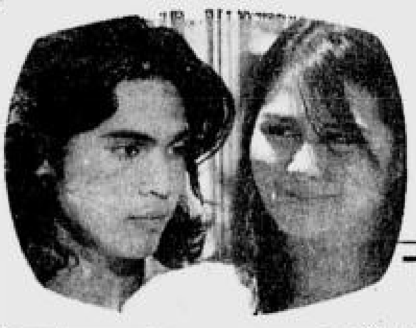
29 June

46

Three birthday parties in one for **JOHN LLOYD CRUZ**, **PAULA PERALEJO** and **CIARA SOTTO**.

A.S.A.P. MANIA

Sunday after "Meteor Garden Rewind"



29 June

47

Makikilala na ang mga bagong miyembro ng barkada.

TABING ILOG

Sunday after "A.S.A.P. Mania"

29 June

48

Uulanin ng mga artista at mas maraming pasabog sa culmination ng aming month-long anniversary celebration!

NOW ON ITS 5th YEAR!

THE BUZZ

Sunday after "Tabing Ilog"

29 June

49

Kakaibang suwerte ang hatid ng isang enchanted pig sa kumbento nina **MARICEL LAXA** at **ANGELU DE LEON**.

PIG NA NAGMIMILAGRO!

WANSAPANATAYM

Sunday after "Sharon"

29 June

50

Ang di-malilimutang love story ng ating panahon. Starring **CLAUDINE BARRETTO** and **RICO YAN**.

SUPER MOVIE SPECIAL

GOT 2 BELIEVE

Sunday after "Home Along da Riles"

Dahil 50 years na ang Philippine television, araw-araw may sorpresang hatid ang mga kapamilya mo sa ABS-CBN!

**Buo na ang singkwenta.
Pero may mga susunod pa...
so keep watching!**

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TELEVISION**
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Saan napupunta ang ibinabayad mo sa MERALCO?

Noong Mayo 30, 2003, inaprubahan ng Energy Regulatory Commission (ERC) ang paghihiwalay o pag-unbundle ng iba't-ibang bahagi ng kabuuang singil ng MERALCO sa kuryente. Ito ay itinakda ng Republic Act 9136 o Electric Power Industry Reform Act (EPIRA) of 2001.

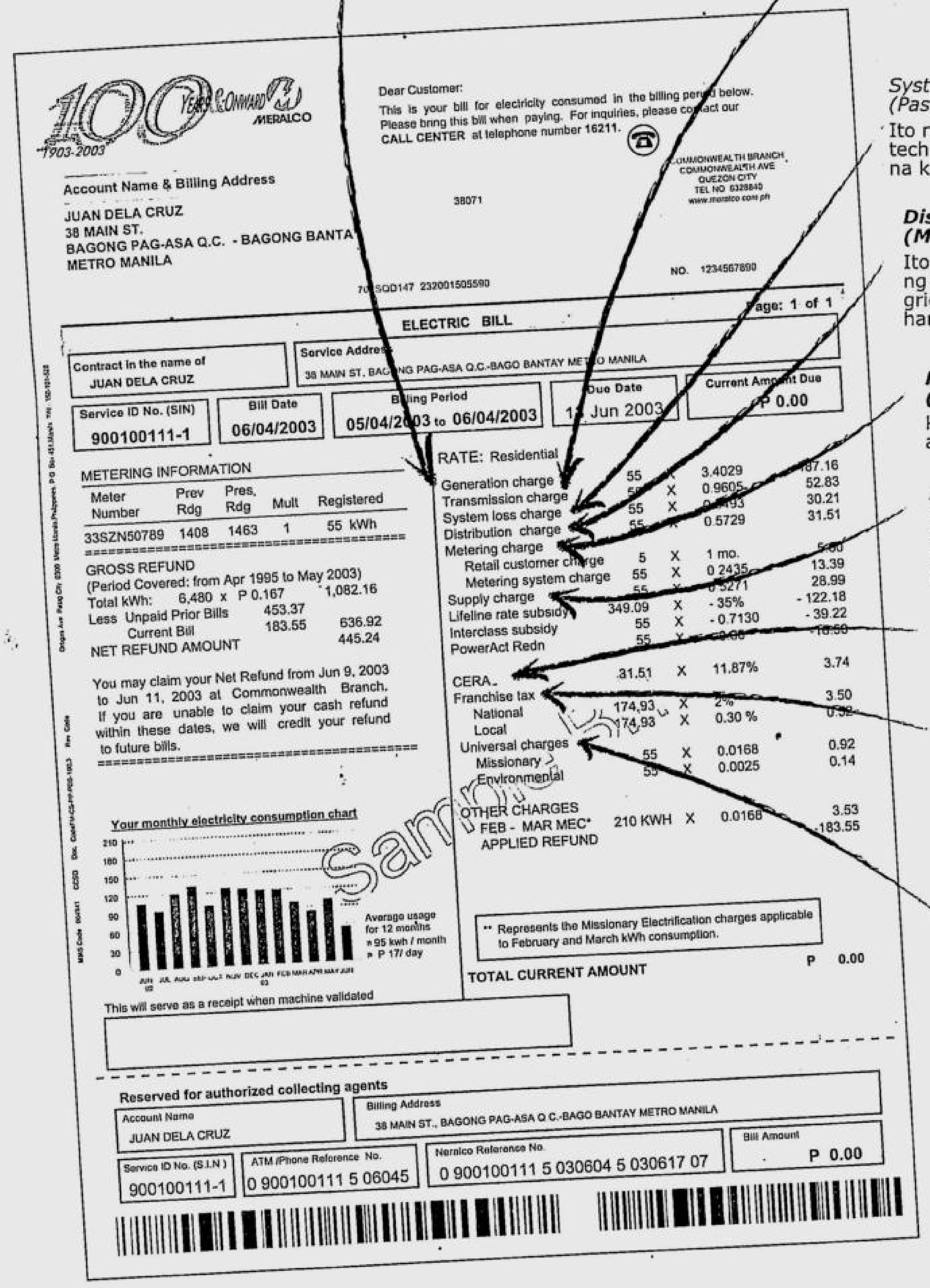
Ang "bill unbundling" ay ipinatupad pagkatapos ng mahigit tatlong (3) taong masusing pag-aaral at pagsisiyasat ng ERC, kung saan nagkaroon ng 55 public hearing at lumahok ang 18 organisasyon o mga taong may kabatiran o may pag-tutol sa usapin.

Sa pag-unbundle ng inyong electric bill na sinimulan ngayong June 2003, malinaw na makikita ang mga sumusunod:

a. bahagi ng singil na napupunta sa isang distributor tulad ng MERALCO
b. bahagi para sa mga suppliers tulad ng power producers o generators
c. pati na rin ang mga buwis na ipinapataw ng gobyerno

Generation Charge
(Pass-Through)
Ito ay para sa kuryenteng binibili ng MERALCO sa mga supplier tulad ng Natonal Power Corporation (NPC) at mga Independent Power Producers (IPPs).

Transmission Charge
(Pass-Through)
Ito ay bayad para sa pag-deliver ng kuryente mula sa mga generator na nasa probinsiya o malalayong lugar papunta sa pasilidad (linya at substations) ng MERALCO. Ang bayad ay napupunta sa National Transmission Company (TransCo).



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COMMONWEALTH AVE
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www.meralco.com.ph

Account Name & Billing Address
JUAN DELA CRUZ
38 MAIN ST.
BAGONG PAG-ASA Q.C. - BAGONG BANTAY
METRO MANILA

38071

NO. 1234567890

70 SQD147 232001505590

Page: 1 of 1

ELECTRIC BILL

Contract in the name of	JUAN DELA CRUZ
Service Address	38 MAIN ST. BAGONG PAG-ASA Q.C.-BAGO BANTAY METRO MANILA
Service ID No. (SIN)	900100111-1
Bill Date	06/04/2003
Billing Period	05/04/2003 to 06/04/2003
Due Date	13 Jun 2003
Current Amount Due	P 0.00

METERING INFORMATION

Meter Number	Prev Rdg	Pres. Rdg	Mult	Registered
33SZN50789	1408	1463	1	55 kWh

GROSS REFUND
(Period Covered: from Apr 1995 to May 2003)
Total kWh: 6,480 x P 0.167 1,082.16
Less Unpaid Prior Bills 453.37
Current Bill 183.55 636.92
NET REFUND AMOUNT 445.24

You may claim your Net Refund from Jun 9, 2003 to Jun 11, 2003 at Commonwealth Branch. If you are unable to claim your cash refund within these dates, we will credit your refund to future bills.

RATE: Residential

Generation charge	55	X	3.4029	187.16
Transmission charge	55	X	0.9605	52.83
System loss charge	55	X	0.5493	30.21
Distribution charge	55	X	0.5729	31.51
Metering charge				
Retail customer charge	5	X	1 mo.	5.00
Metering system charge	55	X	0.2435	13.39
Supply charge	55	X	0.5271	28.99
Lifeline rate subsidy	349.09	X	- 35%	- 122.18
Interclass subsidy	55	X	- 0.7130	- 39.22
PowerAct Redn	55	X	- 0.30	- 16.50
CERA	31.51	X	11.87%	3.74
Franchise tax				
National	174.93	X	2%	3.50
Local	174.93	X	0.30 %	0.52
Universal charges				
Missionary	55	X	0.0168	0.92
Environmental	55	X	0.0025	0.14
OTHER CHARGES				
FEB - MAR MEC*	210 KWH	X	0.0168	3.53
APPLIED REFUND				-183.55

** Represents the Missionary Electrification charges applicable to February and March kWh consumption.

TOTAL CURRENT AMOUNT P 0.00

Your monthly electricity consumption chart

Average usage for 12 months
= 95 kwh / month
= P 17/ day

This will serve as a receipt when machine validated

Sample

Reserved for authorized collecting agents

Account Name	JUAN DELA CRUZ
Billing Address	38 MAIN ST., BAGONG PAG-ASA Q.C.-BAGO BANTAY METRO MANILA
Service ID No. (S.I.N.)	900100111-1
ATM /Phone Reference No.	0 900100111 5 06045
Meralco Reference No.	0 900100111 5 030604 5 030617 07
Bill Amount	P 0.00

System Loss Charge
(Pass-Through)
Ito naman ay ang halaga ng kuryenteng nawawala dahil sa mga technical at non-technical loss na itinakda ng Republic Act 7832 na kokolektahin na hindi hihigit sa 9.5%.

Distribution Charge
(MERALCO)
Ito po ay para sa pagtayo, pag-operate at pag-maintain ng mga pasilidad ng MERALCO, mula high-voltage transmission grids, hanggang sa mga commercial at industrial na customer, hanggang sa mga residential areas o mga bahay.

Metering Charge
(MERALCO)
Kasama po dito ang halaga, pagbabasa, operasyon at pag-maintain ng mga metro ng kuryente.

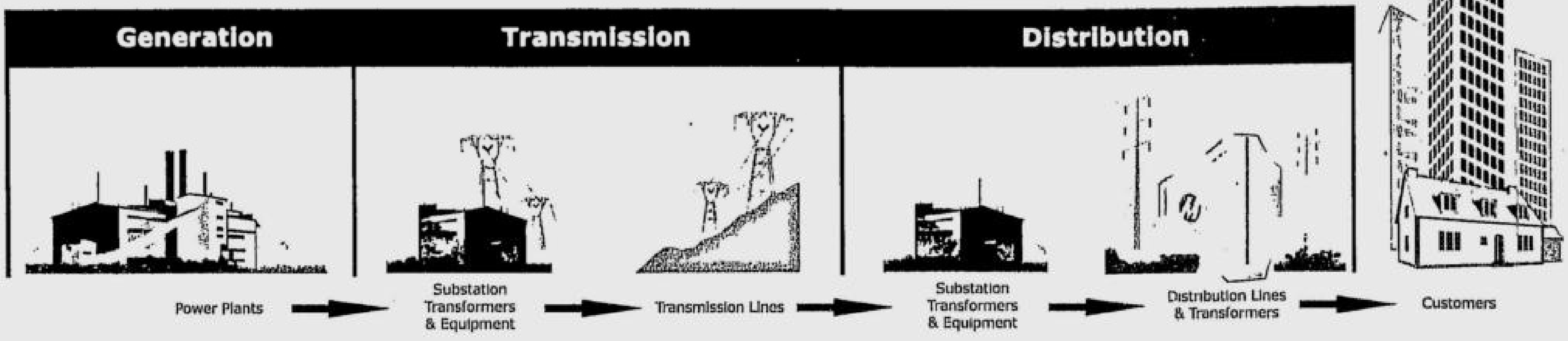
Supply Charge
(MERALCO)
Ito naman po ay para sa aming serbisyo sa mga customer, gaya ng billing, pangongolekta, customer assistance, at iba pa.

Currency Exchange Rate Adjustment
(MERALCO)
Sakop nito ang mga di-kontroladong pagtaas at pagbaba sa halaga ng palitan ng Piso at US Dollar.

Franchise Tax
(Pass-Through)
Ang mga private utility companies ay kinakailangang magbayad ng national at local franchise taxes. 2% ng gross revenues ay napupunta sa national government bilang national franchise tax, at .05% hanggang .75% ng gross revenues naman ay napupunta sa local government units bilang local franchise tax.

Universal Charge
(Pass-Through)
Ito ay ang Missionary Electrification and Environmental charges na napupunta sa Power Sector Assets and Liabilities Management Corporation (PSALM), na pag-aari at kontrolado ng gobyerno, at nilikha ng Republic Act 9136.

MERALCO



Generation
Transmission
Distribution
Power Plants
Substation Transformers & Equipment
Transmission Lines
Substation Transformers & Equipment
Distribution Lines & Transformers
Customers

2 policemen repel 20 NPA attackers

From page A1

Graza and PO1 Alexander Villaflor—were on duty at the time.

Graza was able to spot the approaching rebels, so he and his superior were able to rush to the armory on the second floor of the police building.

Gannaban, who was armed with a .38 cal. revolver, and Graza, who wielded an M-14 rifle, positioned themselves on the concrete balcony.

"Surrender *kamo*!" the rebels shouted at the two, but they were instead met with a volley of gunfire. Villaflor was trapped inside the comfort room on the ground floor.

Three other policemen—PO2 Raul Terencio, PO1 Jovencio Fampo and PO2 Rosario Ariaso—who were inside the church at that time, could not assist their fellow officers because they were unarmed. Terencio was the church guitarist and Ariaso was attending Mass with her family.

Fampo was supposed to be on duty at that time but was given permission by Gannaban to attend Mass. Fampo had left his firearm at the police station.

Gannaban and Graza, in the meantime, could not call for reinforcements because the station's radio unit, which was set up on the second floor, was damaged by a stray bullet.

The town has only one police car and it has not been in running condition for about five months.

Convent refuge

For almost two hours, the exchange of gunfire between the lawmen and the rebels went on as the churchgoers, whom I had herded into the adjoining convent, cowered in fear. The parishioners were crammed inside the rectory of the convent at the back of the church. It was the safest place because it was shielded by a concrete wall.

While the gun fight at the police station was going on, two NPA units barricaded the highway. One group of about 20 rebels positioned themselves in Barangay San Pedro, along the road going to Borongan. The other, also of the same size, took over the road leading to the town proper in Barangay Calian.

The attackers were equipped with radio units. For more than an hour, no vehicle was allowed to pass. None of the vehicles or their passengers were harmed.

When the rebels realized that they could not overrun the police station, they retreated, together with their three wounded comrades.

Gannaban was hit in the right shoulder 30 minutes into the firefight but was able to fight back. He was later brought by the town ambulance to a hospital in Tacloban City, about two hours of travel from this town.

As the police station was under siege, other rebels ransacked the houses of four police officers.

Arms seizure

The boarding house of PO1 Valentin Layson was sprayed with bullets and his M-14 service rifle was taken. Layson was off duty and was in his house in McArthur town.

The rebels took Terencio's M-14 rifle and 9-mm pistol from his house, and the .38 cal. service revolver of PO2 Rosario Ariaso from her house.

Chief Insp. Matthe Aseo, chief of police of neighboring Lawaan town, lost his 9-mm pistol when the rebels ransacked his house here. At that time, Aseo was in Lawaan.

A group of rebels surrounded the house of Mayor Rico Magno. Some of them were as young as 15 years old, Magno said, and several women were in the group. Many were wearing bonnets, he said.

Magno said the rebels did not enter his house because he had not done anything against them. They left the premises along with the other rebels who had earlier engaged the policemen.

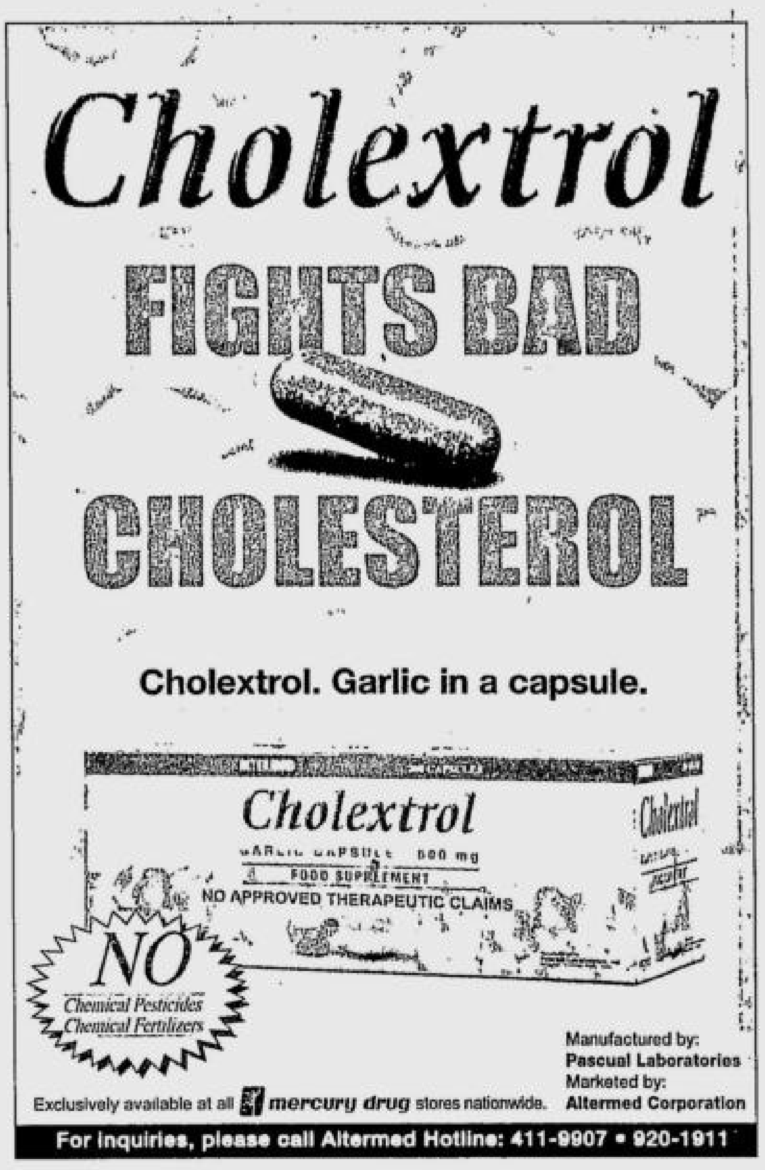
Police were able to recover about 100 empty shells fired from M-14 rifles and two grenades for an M-203 grenade launcher.

Police reinforcements from Borongan arrived at around 9 a.m., about 15 minutes after the rebels had retreated to the mountains.

Army soldiers belonging to the 52nd Infantry Battalion came past 9 a.m. to conduct pursuit operations.

Another team from the Regional Mobile Group based in the police regional headquarters at Camp Ruperto Kangleon in Palo, Leyte, was also dispatched.

Allan Matillano, regional police information officer, said the reinforcement team, numbering around 30, was joined by Chief Supt. Dionisio Coloma Jr., regional police director, and Supt. Asdaleh Abah, group director of RMG-8. *With a report from Joey A. Gabieta, PDI Visayas Bureau*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Reds gun down Pangasinan mayor

From page A1

Zaragoza was a vocal critic of the NPA, said Senior Supt. Leopoldo Bataoil, spokesperson of the Philippine National Police.

Malenab said the Police Mobile Group, during his stint as its chief in Tayug, had recovered several documents from the NPA that included Zaragoza and his nephews among its targets for liquidation.

"I asked him [Zaragoza] to be careful because he was a target for liquidation. The documents we recovered during encounters with NPA rebels [included his name]. The police had also warned him of the dangers of moving around much, but he ignored our warning," Malenab said.

CHIEF Insp. Raymond Gilbert Luzano, police chief of Tayug, Pangasinan, shows to Senior Supt. Wilmer Panabang, deputy police regional director, the bullet-riddled area where the town mayor was attacked.

TAYUG
COLISEUM

LAST stop for slain mayor: Cockfight derby at the Tayug Coliseum in Barangay Toketec.

PHOTOS BY RAY B. ZAMBRANO/PDI NORTHERN LUZON BUREAU

Lozano said he gave the mayor three police escorts to beef up his security. Zaragoza's grandson, Arbee, 17, said the mayor started receiving death threats after he was reelected in 2001.

"The NPA has a long list of my grandfather's (supposed) sins. They have accused him of many things. It was short of blaming him for the murder of Ninoy Aquino," Arbee said.

Wounded in the attack were SPO2 Segundo Seriosa, one of Zaragoza's security aides; Leopoldo Serrano, secretary of the Sangguniang Bayan; Edwin Belen, operator of the arena's sound system; Remedios Murillo, a vendor; Merlito Apriasa, Alberto Punzalan and Mario Quiban.

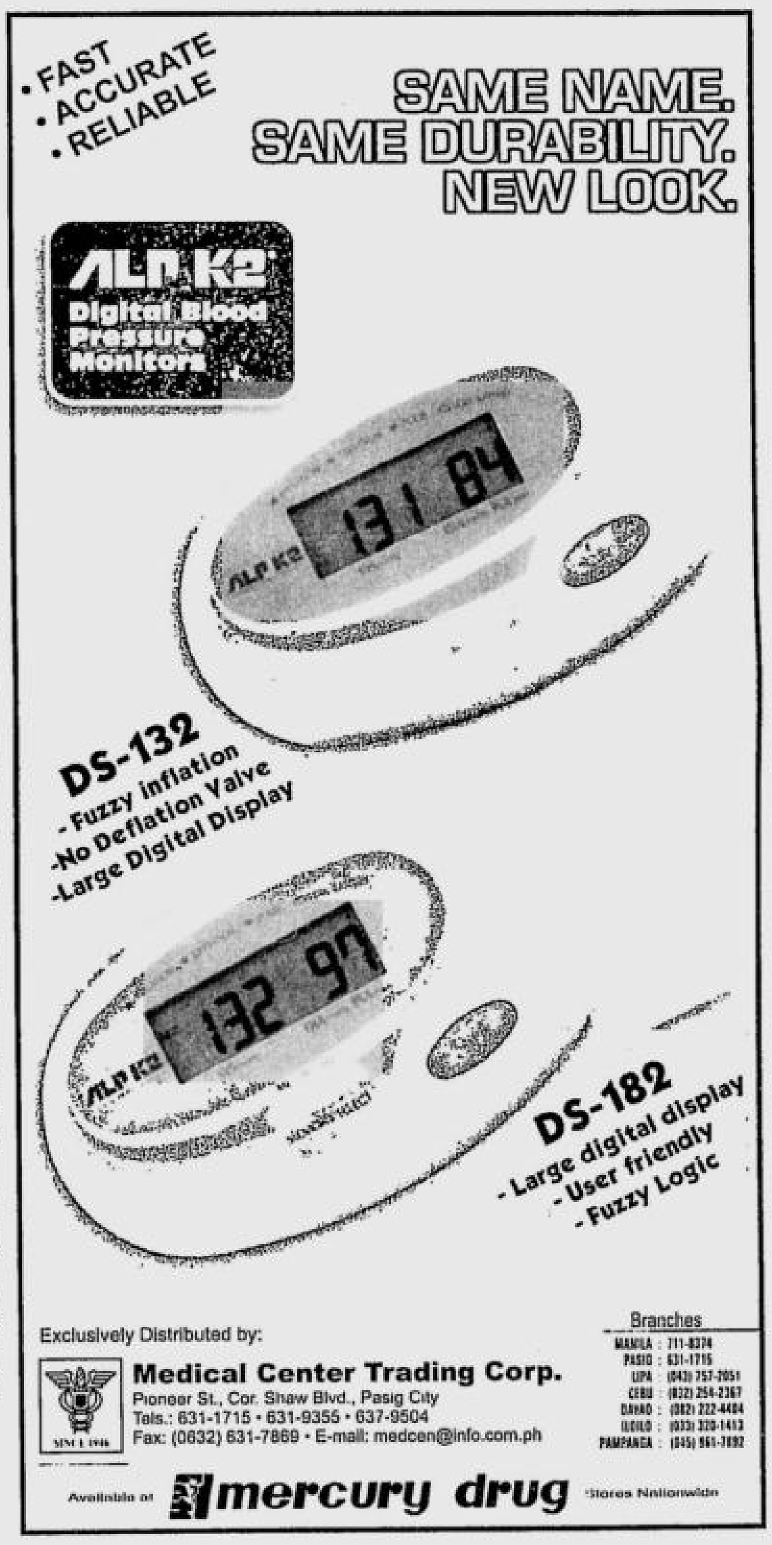
Lozano said the mayor's two other police escorts were not hurt because they were walking ahead of him and had passed through the gate when the attack started.

Police said more than five men staged the attack.

The gunmen positioned themselves at the cockpit's left fence and ran toward a nearby rice field after a 15-minute shooting, Lozano said.

He said there could have been several gunmen who positioned themselves in front of the cockpit because a motorcycle and a tricycle parked there also had bullet holes.

Investigation showed that Zaragoza was carrying his 9-mm pistol when he was waylaid. The gun was missing along with an undetermined amount of money that he had won in the derby, Lozano said. *With reports from Christian V. Esguerra in Manila and Tonette Orejas, PDI Central Luzon Desk*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Church says bishop obliged to support child

From page A1

interview that the Church would contact Yalung soon about his girlfriend Christine Rances' second child, a boy this time.

Yalung is reportedly working as a librarian in the United States. He resigned as bishop of Antipolo shortly before his relationship with Rances was exposed last year.

Reuter said all that was needed was an admission from the bishop, and either Yalung or his diocese would have to support Rances' son.

Yalung's girlfriend gave birth last week at the Cardinal Santos Medical Center in Mandaluyong City. She has claimed that her two children were both sired by Yalung.

Rances told the INQUIRER on June 8 that the second child was conceived in September last year, three months after she delivered her first baby, a girl.

She said that after giving birth to their second child, she would file a legal case seeking financial support from Yalung. She was also planning to file a habeas corpus case against him.

Despite several attempts by the INQUIRER, Rances could not be reached for comment yesterday.

Reuter said the Catholic Church would not hesitate to support a child sired by a member of the clergy if the priest or bishop could not afford to give financial support.

"It has been done. In the past, the Church had always given support," Reuter said, adding that he himself had served as an agent in making financial arrangements between priests and their children.

Yalung well-off

Yalung, however, appeared to be financially capable of supporting a family as he was personally well-off, according to Reuter. As a secular priest, Yalung did not make the vow of poverty and was permitted to have his own bank account.

"If Bishop Yalung cannot afford it, then the Church would step in and give support," Reuter said. This was done usually through support from the priest's diocese.

A priest-father has to give financial support to his child and his child's mother "until they are able to take care of themselves" and even if it causes his bankruptcy, Reuter said.

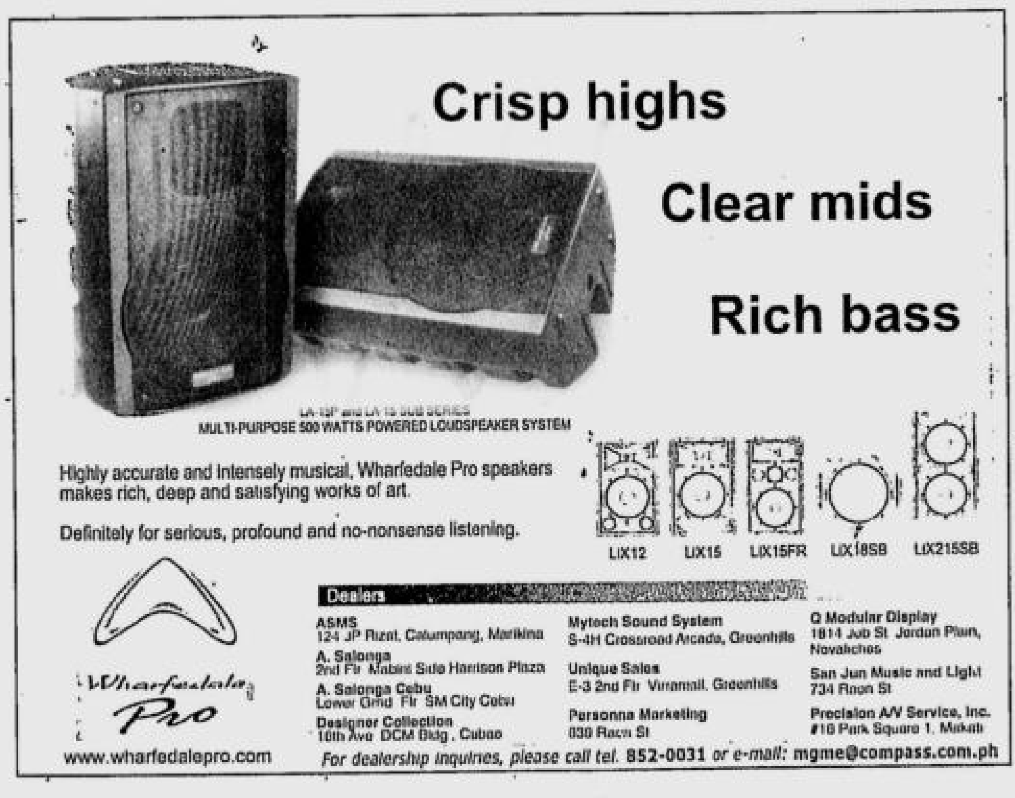
However, if the woman marries, the priest with whom she has a child is no longer obliged to support the family.

Fr. Anton Pascual, spiritual director of charismatic communities in the archdiocese of Manila, said a child sired by a priest would need a surrogate parent as the father would most likely be absent.

"A child needs both parents for normal and healthy growth and development," said Pascual, who is also deputy director of Caritas Manila.

He said "the presence of both parents is crucial during the formative years."

Pascual said he saw no impediment to the baptism of Yalung's children.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MILF leader denies links to JI, slams terrorism

From page A1

overshadowed by military reports of fresh clashes in central Mindanao and the seizure of a huge cache of explosives.

At least two rebels were killed and two others captured following a clash near Kabuntalan town, Maguindanao on Saturday, just hours before a self-imposed ceasefire by the rebels expired.

Maj. Gen. Generoso Senga, head of the Army's 6th Infantry Division, said troops on security patrol ran into an MILF group allegedly planning an attack in the area, triggering the fighting.

Senga said the troops also recovered a huge cache of explosive materials the rebels allegedly planned to use in bombings.

The recovered explosives, which included 450 kilos of C4 and 80 kilos of black gunpowder, were capable of blowing up a 10-story building, the military said.

The explosives indicated that the MILF was planning to stage more bombings despite consistent denials by its spokesperson Eid Kabalu, charged the Army spokesperson, Lt. Col. Joselito Kakilala.

"I hope the seizure of explosives will gag Kabalu once and for all," Kakilala told the INQUIRER in a phone interview.

Government forces searching for top MILF leader Ghazali Jaafar and Murad Ebrahim chanced on the bomb-making factory, the military said.

Moro fighters guarding the factory reportedly fired on the approaching government troops, starting a two-hour fight.

Jaafar and Murad were not around when the raiding team launched a commando-type offensive.

Soldiers recovered the remains of slain guerrillas at 11 a.m. yesterday, along with the chemicals and other bomb-making paraphernalia. They also found several rocket-propelled grenades.

Reached by phone, Jaafar said the factory, if indeed there was one such, was not owned by the MILF. "Probably by some lawless groups or third party," he said without elaborating.

Kabalu said Murad and Jaafar were no longer in Maguindanao.

Informal talks

The MILF founder's statement was followed by a disclosure that informal talks were also ongoing in Malaysia and could result in a joint ceasefire deal, Kabalu told Agence France Presse.

"There has been some positive development," Kabalu said. He refused to elaborate, however.

He said both sides were meeting in the Malaysian capital of Kuala Lumpur on a proposed accord calling for "disengagement" by their forces in battle areas. Mainly Muslim Malaysia is trying to broker a peace agreement.

After the MILF's unilateral ceasefire lapsed, Kabalu said they would continue the truce indefinitely. But pending a similar ceasefire declaration by the Armed Forces, "we are maintaining a position of active defense," Kabalu said by telephone.

"This means that we will not launch attacks unless we are attacked. Technically, we are still holding onto a ceasefire."

He added: "The chances of an agreement (in Kuala Lumpur) are 60-40."

Intelligence agencies in the region have linked the MILF with the JI, which is blamed for the Bali bombing that killed over 200 people last October.

A confessed JI member, Indonesian Fathur Rohman Al-Ghozi, told prosecutors last week that top JI leaders Hambali, alias Riduan Isamuddin, and Faiz Abubakar Bafana, had financed the Rizal Day 2000 bombing on an LRT station that killed 22.

Hambali, Asia's most wanted man, remains at large, while Bafana has been detained in Singapore.

Al-Ghozi, who has already been convicted for illegal possession of explosives, said an alleged MILF bomb expert captured by police last month also helped plot the attack.

But Salamat said it was his "abiding duty in Islam to overcome all obstacles that pose as stumbling blocks to the peace process," aimed at ending the MILF's 25-year insurgency. *With reports from AFP, AP, Reuters; Christian Esguerra; and Edwin Fernandez, Rosa May de Guzman, PDI Mindanao Bureau*

Evacuees plan highway protest

CIVILIANS displaced by fighting between soldiers and Moro rebels will set up tents along the national highway in North Cotabato and Maguindanao to pressure the government and rebel group to declare a bilateral ceasefire.

In a statement, Abusama Taguntong, acting coordinator of Coalition of Peoples for Peace and Development said the evacuees would convene tomorrow to stage "Bakwit Power: People's Exodus to Peace," a move to dramatize their demand for a safe and permanent return to their communities."

Taguntong said the evacuees, along with artist, peace advocates, humanitarian groups, local government units and religious leaders, would leave their evacuation centers and occupy the roadside in Pikit town in North Cotabato and Pagagawan and Pagalungan towns in Maguindanao.

Taguntong said the evacuees would go as far as occupying half of the highway and set up their own improvised dwelling to prevent motorists from using the road, if nothing happens to their appeal.

"The Exodus to Peace is an assertion of evacuees who are unfairly treated as the collateral damage of war," Taguntong said. *Edwin Fernandez and Rosa May de Guzman, PDI Mindanao Bureau*

Media urged: Focus on faces of evacuees, not just figures

From page A1

of former evacuees who have already resumed a normal life.

At present, 36,116 families remain in some 130 evacuation centers in 11 provinces and three cities. The total is down from the 77,249 families displaced since last January by renewed clashes between government troops and Moro Islamic Liberation Front rebels.

In the last five months, the centers have fought off squalor, disease and death by organizing the evacuees into "committees" taking care of the cooking, sanitation, women's needs, and so on.

The carabaos, goats and chickens which the refugees brought with them have been allotted space far from the human dwellings.

Each family receives a bag of relief goods every three days—consisting of six cans of sardines, five packs of instant noodles, a 500-gram pack of coffee and half a kilo of sugar. Absolutely no pork, as a mark of respect for Islamic beliefs.

Provincial governments mainly take care of the water supply, delivered in mobile tanks. There are no power lines in the evacuation centers and the refugees' only source of entertainment are battery-operated radios.

Last month, the DSWD started handing out mongo and dried fish bought from former evacuees who had returned to their villages around the Liguasan Marsh. A milk feeding program for children started last April.

Play therapy

The bigger evacuation centers found in Buisan and Mahad in Pikit, North Cotabato and in Siocon, Zamboanga del Norte, have day-care facilities that provide "play therapy" for children three hours a day.

Soliman recalled that during the first two weeks of the evacuation, she noticed the children in the centers had nothing but blank stares. But when she returned two weeks later after the application of play therapy, the same boys and girls had regained their playfulness, easily taking to singing and dancing.

One form of therapy was to ask a child to draw a "memory" of the home he left and the kind of home he wants to "return" to, the DSWD chief said.

"One particular child drew a house over which a helicopter hovered," Soliman said. "That's his memory." His "dream," on the other hand, is the same house "but this time surrounded by animals and a vegetable garden." Soliman said such exercises like these help purge the trauma and violence experienced by a child.

For women refugees, social workers also conduct health and first-aid classes and skills training sessions in cooking and food preservation.

Most of the menfolk, however, are out of the camps during the day, to check on their homes and farms in the abandoned villages.

Heartbreaking

"'For all they've been through, they are still very gracious," Soliman said, recalling how Muslim women would thank her through an interpreter during her visits to the camps. "That's what breaks my heart."

Once, she fondly recalled, even her trademark streak of dyed hair would be an instant object of fascination for some teenage girls, who for a moment seemed to forget the decades-old strife in their midst.

The DSWD could use more funds and personnel to sustain the remaining camps and help the families slowly returning to their homes, she said.

But the department, which had already poured in some P60 million to the Mindanao relief effort this year, could only do so much.

"We [social workers] are often asked by the evacuees, 'Why are we always on the run?' This always gives me a lump in the throat, because it's so hard for us to explain," Soliman said.

She said the best she could do was "tell them that the government is addressing the roots of the problem," and pointed them to the "qualitative changes" they could expect should moments of peace allowed them to go home again.

"We tell them that when they go back they will see their houses, schools, and mosques are being repaired by the government," she said.

"But ultimately the real solution is lasting peace," Soliman stressed. "It all depends on the armed groups for these people to be able to rebuild their lives."

Potter saga sells . . .

From page A1

ever had," said a spokesperson for WH Smith, Britain's largest bookseller, after Saturday's publication of "Harry Potter and the Order of the Phoenix" was billed as the world's largest book launch.

"They were going through the tills at more than eight copies a second," she told Reuters. "Pre-orders were 10 times bigger than those for the last Harry Potter book."

At London's King's Cross Station, the store recreated the gateway to Platform Nine and Three Quarters where Harry takes the train to Hogwarts School of Witchcraft and Wizardry.

And the Pottermania was not just confined to the boy wizard's homeland.

Online retailer Amazon said the fifth Potter book had broken Internet sales records with more than 1.3 million advance orders received worldwide.

Around the globe, children starved of a Potter book for almost three years eagerly devoured the weighty new tome and gave many parents a peaceful weekend.

The wizard's creator, multimillionaire author JK Rowling, joined in the Pottermania by visiting an Edinburgh book shop to see first-hand all the excitement she had created.

She was thrilled that none of the plot's major secrets—one of the main characters dies—had been leaked out.

"I am really happy. I think most kids are going to find out what happens because they have read the book—and that is what's important to me," said the author, who is now estimated to be richer than Britain's Queen Elizabeth.

The book's publication sparked a worldwide shopping frenzy and children were certainly given a hefty treat—the latest book runs to 255,000 words and is the size of a brick.

But that did not deter 15-year-old British schoolgirl Jennifer Gosling who claimed to have speed-read the 766-page saga in one and a half hours as part of a bookstore challenge.

Critics complained that the book, which they dubbed "Harry Potter and the Crock of Hype," was a masterpiece of cynical marketing.

But the figures are staggering. Thirteen million copies were printed of the latest saga and from Sydney to Johannesburg, from Frankfurt to Kuala Lumpur, kids just could not wait to get their hands on the book.

"Harry Potter is a religion," said Connecticut teenager Caitlin Messina, clutching her new Nimbus 2000 broomstick.

Across the globe, Pottermania hit the most world's populous Muslim nation as 7-year-old Indonesian schoolboy Muhammad Rifaldi Kurniawan said of Harry's broomstick: "I like his flying brush. I want to be able to fly too."

And "down under" in Australia, 11-year-old Rory Brooks said it all: "I think books are very exciting. Movies are great, I admit that, but books take you away in your own imagination. You feel like you have gone back in time." *Reuters*

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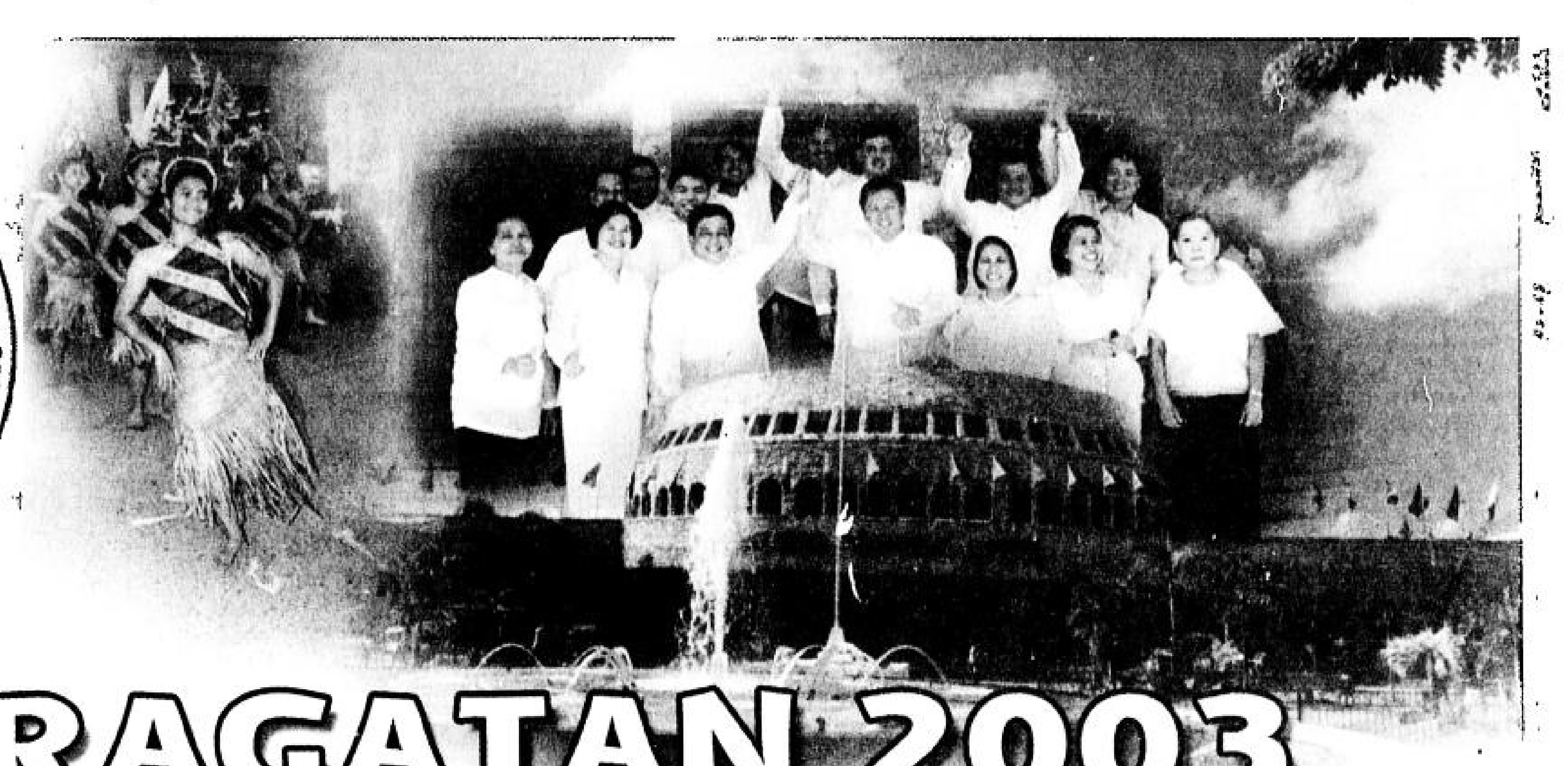


BARAGATAN 2003

101ST FOUNDING ANNIVERSARY OF PALAWAN'S CIVIL GOVERNMENT

Building Palawan Onwards to a Sustainable Future

PALAWAN celebrates today, June 23, the 101st founding anniversary of its civil government. A vibrant, jubilant Street Dancing Competition highlights the week-long Baragatan Festival which started June 17 where Palaweños, in their own unique and inimitable style, converged and shared their ethnic and cosmopolitan culture. The theme of the celebration is "Ating Pagkakaisa, Tagumpay ng Lalawigan".

Baragatan, derived from the Cuyono word bagat which means to meet, to converge in one place, features Palawan's cultural heritage passed on from generation to generation of indigenous inhabitants of the country's largest province from the Tagbanua, Pala'wan, Tau't Bato, Molbogs to the ethnic cultural groups of the Cuyonon, Agutaynon, Cagayanen and other groups that have made Palawan a place of their own.

Baragatan is a showcase of Palawan agricultural products harvested from fertile lands and from the abundant seas. The LGU Trade Fair provides a sampling of the beauty and bounty of this province made up of 23 municipalities and one component city. Yellow succulent mangoes from Narra, sweet Hawaiian pineapples from Bataraza, mats and bags from Sofronio Española, cashew from almost all the municipalities, baskets from Coron, crabmeat and bottled sardines from San Vicente, and a variety of agricultural crops -- these are just some of the God-given treasures found in the trade fair.

The ingenuity of Palaweños in converting raw materials to saleable arts and crafts with great economic potentials are also showcased in Baragatan. The One Village One Product Trade Show, for instance, provides a glimpse of the craftmanship of Palaweños from the hand-woven table runners, wall hangings, placemats to the trendy necklaces, bracelets and other value-added products which could easily compete in Manila trade expos.

As the sound of the drums slowly rise into a crescendo, Palaweños will let their hair down for a night of fun, entertainment and merrymaking to welcome the start of a new chapter in the history of Palawan's civil government.

BY OPENING more farm to market roads and energizing the barangays, Gov. Joel T. Reyes hopes to accelerate Palawan's development into the 21st century.

PALAWAN: A HAVEN BOTH FOR MAN AND NATURE

Cognizant of the achievements of past leaders starting from the administration of Major John Brown, the first American military leader appointed as governor of the newly created civil government on June 23, 1902 to the succession of elected, appointed civilian governors down to his immediate predecessor, the missing Gov. Salvador P. Socrates, the incumbent Palawan Governor Joel T. Reyes is fully aware that much has been done in bringing development to the province. From the vast wilderness that was Palawan, a hundred and one years ago, the province has metamorphosed into a habitable land and a haven both for man and nature. While mindful of the efforts of past government officials who worked hard in carving Palawan's future, Gov. Reyes together with his vice-governor, David Ponce de Leon, knows that Palawan is still a work in progress. "Our predecessors must have encountered many problems in their attempt to break new ground and open the vast unsettled lands to development. Needless to say, we are now enjoying the fruits of their labors but the task is not yet over," remarks Gov. Reyes.

"Essentially, there is still much work to be done because of the demands for a better quality of life within the context of present realities and within the framework of sustainable development. But I am fortunate to have as my predecessor in the missing Gov. Badong Socrates, who as a visionary, already laid out the developmental plans for Palawan. My role now is to build on the dreams of Badong Socrates and the others who came before me," is Gov. Reyes's humble statement.

GOV. JOEL T. REYES: A BUILDER OF DREAMS

A builder of dreams, Gov. Reyes with the help of Vice-Governor David Ponce de Leon and the members of the Sangguniang Panlalawigan focused on the fast-tracking of infrastructure projects to set into motion the wheels of economic growth and set the climate conducive for business and investments. While safeguarding Palawan's ecosystem, the present administration also addresses the basic needs -- more adequate road networks, bridges, power and electricity, water, transportation and communication facilities to boost the economy and improve the quality of life of Palaweños while pursuing the health and social welfare services.

So barely two years in office, Gov. Reyes began the construction of 259.47 kms of farm-to-market roads that would link 76,795 hectares of farmlands to centers of trade and benefit thousands of farmers. Most of these farm to market roads are almost completed.

He also pursued the Barangay Environment and Sanitation Project to provide Level III water systems in several barangays. The BESP water projects which will benefit thousands of households will be ready for inauguration in the next coming months. Other water projects are in the drawing board.

Energizing the 431 barangays is another top priority of the Reyes administration. Under his watch, he completed the electrification projects in remote barangays began by his predecessor. Last April, Gov. Reyes inaugurated the Bisucay Diesel Power Plant in the island municipality of Cuyo which will benefit some 800 households. Bisucay is an islet in Cuyo with three barangays namely Balading, Caburian and Funda.

New and renewable sources of energy are being tapped to energize remote and off-grid communities in cooperation with the private sector and the non-government organizations. Some of the projects on line are the PV-Wind Hybrid Electrification Project in Sitio Sicud, Barangay Candawaga in the town of Rizal. This will benefit 200 households. Some 100 households will be lighted up through the PV mini grid community-based energy project. Solar and wind power will also be used to spur livelihood activities.

While unlocking these non-conventional energy sources to power up homes and small enterprises, Gov. Reyes has initiated talks with the Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA) for the formulation of a definitive energy master plan for Palawan. The first of a five phase program is already underway and if the timetable will be followed, the energy master plan would be ready for presentation to the governor in 2004.

Corollary to this endeavor, the province has created a provincial energy division under the Provincial Planning and Development Office to review and update the energy plan, coordinate and oversee the implementation of the Provincial Energy Master Plan.

To guide the Energy Division in determining the real energy situation in a particular barangay or municipality in Palawan, the provincial government through an SP resolution provided for the provincial definition on "energized barangays." Departing from the DOE definition of energized barangay as having a minimum of ten (10) households electrified and that of the National Electrification Administration as having 20 households connected to the grid, Palawan came up with its own three-tiered classification. In Level 1 energy source comes from the Solar Home System and Battery Charging Station; in Level 2, 30% of households in the barangay are energized but operating at less than 24 hours; and in Level 3, 65% of households in the barangay are energized with 24 hour power supply and the system can support economic activities in the area.

HEALTH AND SOCIAL WELFARE SERVICES

Gov. Reyes gives as much focus to improve the well-being of Palaweños. The province has poured in almost P12 M in support of the Comprehensive Integrated Delivery of Social Services projects. Based on the minimum basic needs of the CIDSS barangays, the funded projects are mostly the construction of day care centers, feeder roads, water, rain catchers, and livelihood projects.

More day care centers have been constructed provincewide to meet the needs of pre-school age children. Based on latest data, there are 707 day care centers provincewide with 717 day care workers serving 17, 079 children three to 6 years old.

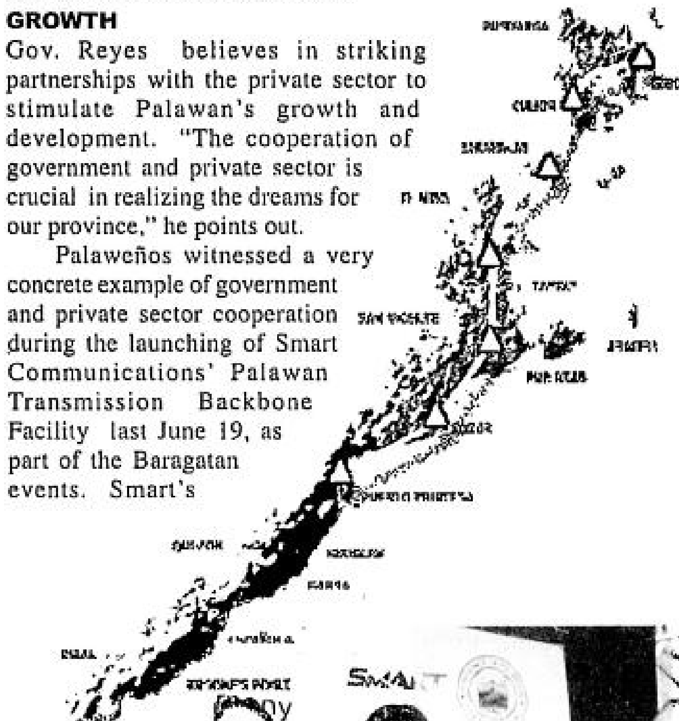
Knowing that education is a key factor to improve the quality of life of Palaweños, Gov. Reyes created the Provincial Teacher's Pool to help augment the insufficient number of public school teachers. Deterred by lack of funds, the Department of Education is not able to hire the required number of teachers in the public schools, causing congestion in the classrooms. Through the Provincial Teachers' Pool, additional teachers are hired by the province to fill up the vacancies in selected barangay elementary and secondary public schools. This program does not only decongest the classrooms but through it more youths are able to go to school with the availability of additional teachers.

In the area of health, the province as a beneficiary of the Integrated Community Health Services Project (ICHSP) has upgraded municipal and district hospitals and constructed/rehabilitated rural health units. It has established computerized data management for a more effective referral system and care of patients, among other services it has provided the health sector.

PRIVATE SECTOR PARTNERSHIP TO STIMULATE PALAWAN'S GROWTH

Gov. Reyes believes in striking partnerships with the private sector to stimulate Palawan's growth and development. "The cooperation of government and private sector is crucial in realizing the dreams for our province," he points out.

Palaweños witnessed a very concrete example of government and private sector cooperation during the launching of Smart Communications' Palawan Transmission Backbone Facility last June 19, as part of the Baragatan events. Smart's Chief Executive Officer Napoleon L. Nazareno said that the difficult task of building the transmission backbone facility was made easier with the cooperation of the provincial government and the local government units. He added that it is a project unique to Palawan because nothing so far has yet been done on a similar scale in other provinces. Moreover, this infrastructure is capable of providing advanced telecommunications services and meet future needs of Palaweños.



SMART COMMUNICATIONS has built a transmission backbone facility which links Palawan to Batangas via Mindoro. There are seven relay *(see ▲)* stations located in northern Palawan. The second phase of the project will be installed in the southern section.

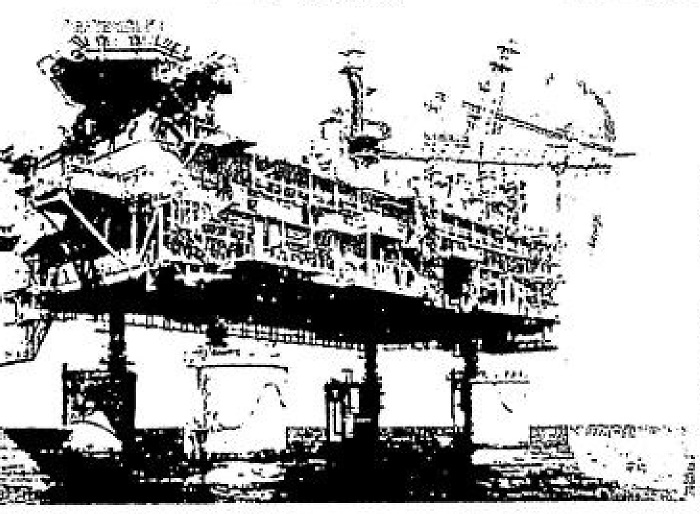
A FIRM HANDSHAKE of partnership between Palawan's Gov. Reyes and Smart's CEO Mr. Napoleon Nazareno for the development of the country's last ecological frontier. Also in photo (left) is Cong. Baham Mitra.

Gov. Reyes said that the project is a symbol of what government and private sector partnership can do to promote development. "There is more to this project than the investment and the goodwill. Rather what really counts is the development that will be realized from this investment," Gov. Reyes points out. In the same vein, Smart hopes to serve as a catalyst for the growth of the province and its people.

Better telecommunication services is very important in a place where eco-tourism is a primary industry.

Palawan, with its bountiful natural resources, is a haven for tourism. And Gov. Reyes sees the important role of the private sector in the sustainable management of these resources. As stakeholders and operators of tourism establishments, the private sector can do their share in the conservation and preservation of the environment while at the same time providing employment opportunities for Palaweños and improving economic potentials of host barangays and municipalities.

To preserve and enhance the natural heritage, the provincial government has formulated the Environmentally Sustainable Tourism Development Plan for Northern Palawan through the assistance of the Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA). To boost the tourism industry further, Gov. Reyes in cooperation with other agencies recently established bilateral ties with Sabah, Malaysia where one of the key areas of cooperation would be the opening of sea and air linkages between the two places.



THE MALAMPAYA natural gas field is located northwest of Palawan.

These initiatives plus tighter security measures in tourism establishments are expected to ensure that Palawan's guests will be truly safe and secure while communing with nature.

MALAMPAYA GAS TO FUEL PALAWAN'S ECONOMY

In building Palawan's sustainable future, the present leadership and the current generation of Palaweños are looking at the Malampaya gas project which is within the territorial jurisdiction of the province and, so Palaweños have a rightful and legal claim to its gas proceeds, as a primary resource to fuel the province's economy. Vice President Teofisto T. Guingona, in his message to Palaweños during the opening ceremonies of Baragatan said, "Malampaya is a project worth fighting for." With the gas revenues, Palawan can move ahead at an accelerated pace and uplift the lives of Palaweños.

In concretizing the dreams of his constituents, Gov. Reyes hopes that Palaweños will eventually be able to realize their own dreams for their children and thus make Palawan a true haven for man and nature. This is the legacy we shall pass on to the next generation of Palaweños, remarks Gov. Joel T. Reyes.

Longer gov't drive vs drug rings seen

From page A1

lo, former members of Manila's Finest who went after drug syndicates in the 1990s. The four have offered to help the government's renewed anti-drug campaign.

Bunye said the government would need all the help it could get from people who have the track record in fighting the illegal drug trade.

The government's anti-drug campaign has been revitalized with the injection of P1 billion from lotto earnings of the Philippine Charity Sweepstakes Office and the appointment of Barbers, head of the Senate committee on public order and illegal drugs, as anti-drug czar with oversight powers on the PDEA.

The opposition has sharply criticized the campaign as politically motivated, saying that it was intended to derail the presidential candidacy of Sen. Panfilo Lacson. Others claim that the campaign was meant to propel Barbers to a higher office, possibly the vice presidency.

Bunye said the public should give Barbers the chance to prove his worth because he had offered his services to help the government's anti-drug campaign.

Barbers has offered to resign as senator so that he can concentrate on the anti-drug campaign, but the President said this was not necessary.

"Let us set aside our judgment on them until we have obtained the results from their work," Bunye said.

Drug lords

Noting that the times call for it, the chair of the House committee on dangerous drugs yesterday said big-time drug traffickers would be named at this week's anti-drug summit.

"The situation has gone grave," Rep. Antonio Cuenco (Promdi, Cebu City) said. "We need to take drastic action against drug syndicates like busting them in an open drug summit."

In a statement, Cuenco said the summit was "expected to be a showdown against drug syndicates which now need to be named as part of a drastic and effective campaign against illegal drugs."

The Cuenco committee will convene the summit on Thursday and one of those invited to attend is President Macapagal-Arroyo. Also invited were Lina, PDEA chief Anselmo Avenido, Philippine National Police Director General Hermogenes Ebdane, National Bureau of Investigation Director Reynaldo Wycoco and Justice Secretary Simeon Datumanong.

The intelligence community is known to keep and update lists of drug traders from petty street pushers to so-called Level 1 traffickers or those heading syndicates. The lists, however, are not made public as these are not acceptable as evidence before the courts.

New body

Barbers said he would talk to Ms Macapagal this week to tell her he would be more effective in helping the drive against illegal drugs if he were to be appointed head of a new body to oversee such operations.

He said he would just be a mere "adviser" if he were to oversee the anti-drug campaign of the PDEA in his capacity as chair of the Senate committee on public order and illegal drugs.

"I want to be at the center of the war against illegal drugs," Barbers said in a phone interview.

The senator was reacting to the President's statement the other day that he need not resign because she had already instructed Avenido to follow Barber's command, and that his authority included leading field operations against drug offenders.

But Barbers said he preferred resigning from the Senate because, legislative work would affect his new job of leading the war against illegal drugs.

More importantly, he said that as head of the newly created agency, he could select his own people to help in the anti-drug campaign like Lim, Margallo and Jaylo, all former colleagues in the Western Police District and the National Bureau of Investigation.

"In my experience, you have to get people who share your confidence in the anti-drug campaign," said Barbers, a former police officer. "And we can produce results."

He disclosed that his "team" had maintained reliable informants, who can boost the renewed anti-drug drive.

That's why he said he wanted the President to create a new body to oversee the anti-drug campaign of the police and the PDEA.

Asked whether he was no longer seeking reelection in the Senate, Barbers said he would still run for reelection, but if he were told to stay on the new job, he would not hesitate to do so.

Committee report

He disagreed with Lacson's statement the other day that the Senate committee report of the committee on public order and illegal drugs had been rendered moot because the Office of the Ombudsman had cleared the latter of any involvement in illegal drug activities.

"We're [the Senate] not bound by findings of the Ombudsman," Barbers said.

Senate Committee Report No. 66 is a report separate from the Office of the Ombudsman's report, according to Barbers.

"It's all up to the Department of Justice [on what to do with our report]," he said.

The report, which recommends that the DOJ pursue the investigation of Lacson and other police officers for alleged involvement in organized crimes, has not been officially adopted by the Senate because Barbers has yet to sponsor it to the floor.

The report was supposed to be taken up by the Senate in a plenary session before the chamber adjourned on June 6, but Lacson and other opposition senators did not show up.

Lacson said the Office of the Ombudsman had cleared him of drug trafficking and kidnapping charges, rendering moot the Senate committee report.

His defensive reaction to the drug campaign surprised Wycoco, who said that when the President called officials of intelligence agencies to a meeting last week to discuss the anti-drug campaign, she directed them not to spare anyone.

"There was never any mention of the name of Senator Lacson," Wycoco told radio station dyLA in Cebu City.

He also clarified that the NBI was not investigating the alleged involvement of Lacson in drug trafficking.

But the bureau was prepared to investigate the allegation should it be directed by the Senate or by the Department of Justice, he said. *With reports from Carlito Pablo in Mnaila and Jhunnex Napallacan, PDI Visayas Bureau*

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Rizal Avenue renewal now in high gear

By Margaux Ortiz

THE REDEVELOPMENT of Rizal Avenue is shifting to high gear.

Manila Mayor Lito Atienza Jr. announced yesterday that the city government has begun preparations for the "pedestrianization" of the avenue.

Beginning yesterday, he said, the northbound lane of Rizal Avenue from Carriedo Street up to Claro M. Recto Avenue was closed to motorists.

A traffic re-routing plan prepared by the Western Traffic Enforcement Office (WTEO) directs northbound vehicles to start using the southbound lane of Rizal Avenue.

Southbound vehicles, on the other hand, will now have to turn right at Claro M. Recto Avenue, turn left to T. Mapua (formerly Misericordia) Street, left to Ongpin Street, right on Ronquillo, left upon reaching Plaza Sta. Cruz, and then left towards McArthur Bridge.

Atienza said the re-routing was needed to give way to the first phase of the redevelopment of the northbound lane into a pedestrian shopping and outdoor dining area.

The first phase of the project will be completed in 60 days. The redevelopment of the southbound lane will immediately follow, Atienza said.

MMDA'S APPEAL TO METRO RESIDENTS

Drop bad habits, end flooding

By Leila Salaverria

AS LONG as Metro Manilans persist on throwing their garbage, especially plastic bags, anywhere they please, they would never see the end of flooding.

After a year of handling the flood situation in the metropolis, the Metro Manila Development Authority is still battling with trash indiscriminately thrown on the streets and waterways.

Deputy Chair Cesar Lacuna said that after the recent rains, the MMDA has discovered that plastic bags have blocked inlets and drainage systems, causing pocket floods in most areas.

"We have no choice but to continue removing them," Lacuna said.

He added that almost all areas in Metro Manila were beset with garbage for which Lacuna blamed the people's lack of discipline.

Proof of this are pocket floods which usually result after a downpour, he said.

Lacuna said people who throw their garbage indiscriminately were to blame for flash floods which have caused massive traffic jams.

In November last year, heavy rains that brought flash floods snarled traffic along a stretch of Edsa from Quezon Avenue in Quezon City to Ayala Avenue in Makati.

There was flood only in Quezon City but the traffic jam reached all the way to Makati, which was several cities away.

Lacuna said yesterday that flood control personnel were on standby 24 hours a day for each district in Metro Manila so that they could rush to a flooded area and remove the trash that were blocking the drainage systems and were causing the floods.

Officials dismayed

Earlier, MMDA officials expressed dismay at the rate garbage was returning in the waterways that have already been dredged.

They said this would negate the good batting average they had achieved when typhoon Chedeng lashed the metropolis early this month.

Many areas in the metropolis were flooded but the floodwaters receded just as fast as they rose, except in the low-lying areas which are perenially flooded especially during high tide.

MMDA Chair Bayani Fernando had earlier called on neighborhood toughies to prevent their neighbors from throwing garbage on the streets and waterways.

He had also proposed a search for the dirtiest barangay in Metro Manila to force barangay officials to keep their areas trash-free.

LTO cited for drive vs addicts

By Carlito Pablo

DESPITE reported kinks and loopholes in its drug testing for driver's license applicants, the Land Transportation Office has prevented thousands of addicts from getting their hands on the wheel.

The vice chair of the House committee on dangerous drugs said that 13,285 out of 1,921,905 applicants tested positive for drugs from May 2002 to May this year.

Zubiri said these applicants tested positive for either shabu or marijuana based on their urine samples.

Rep. Juan Miguel Zubiri (Lakas, Bukidnon) said this number "could fill one Araneta Coliseum."

"Think of the number of lives of motorists and pedestrians we have saved because we have yanked thousands of drug-crazed maniacs out of the steering wheel," Zubiri said in a statement.

Zubiri said that although the applicants found positive for drug abuse comprise only one percent of the total number of applicants for a one-year period, it is still a "long haul."

Half of those who tested positive for drugs were from Metro Manila, Zubiri said, citing reports from the LTO.

Drug testing is now mandatory for driver's license applicants in the new Dangerous Drugs Act.

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METROBRIEFS

Traffic enforcer loses bike

CALOOCAN City traffic enforcer Rodolfo Ladaban lost his Mitsukoshi motorcycle at the corner of 10th Avenue and Rizal Street last Saturday. He had just come back from a break, when he found the motorcycle missing. A booklet of traffic violations receipts, an Adidas jacket, identification cards, two confiscated driver's licenses, and P6,000 cash were stolen with the motorcycle.

Tarra Quismundo

Alien in molestation raps

PAKISTANI businessman Mohammad Nazir Iman, 49, temporarily residing in Sucat, Parañaque, has been accused of molesting the daughter of a friend in Valenzuela City. Police said Iman was under the influence of liquor when he arrived at the house of his friend in Marulas at about 9 p.m. on Saturday. Suddenly, he allegedly touched and kissed the arm of the 26-year-old daughter of his friend. Iman is now detained while facing charges of acts of lasciviousness.

Tarra Quismundo

'Cara y cruz' lands 3 in jail

PLAYING cara y cruz could be exciting and fun. But it got Benjie de los Reyes, 24, Amel Santos, 37, and a teen-age boy arrested in Pasay City yesterday. Barangay councilman Arnold Alico of Zone 7 told the police that at about 2:30 a.m. yesterday, he caught the three playing cara y cruz at the corner of Buendia and Taft avenues. Alico turned them over to police. They were found with bets amounting to P37 and the three 25-centavo coins which they used in the game, police said.

Edson Tandoc Jr.

Motorcycle theft rising

THREE motorcycles have been stolen in a 30-hour span in Makati City. Arnel Salazar, 33, an Aboitiz courier, lost his company's Yamaha motorcycle (7585) at about 3 p.m. on June 19. The motorcycle was parked near Paseo de Roxas corner Makati Avenue. On June 20, Joel Fernandez, 20, lost his black Honda TMX (NV 3372) at about 4 p.m. The motorcycle was parked in front of the Cityland building on Valero Street, Salcedo Village. In the evening of the same day, Edgardo Collado Jr., 26, lost a blue Yamaha motorcycle (SC 4541) parked at the basement of the Makati City hall. Last month, 10 motorcycles were reported stolen in the city. Only two of the motorcycles have been recovered.

Edson Tandoc Jr.

Permanent name tags

MANILA councilor Julio Logarta Jr. has filed an ordinance requiring law enforcers in the city to wear permanent name patches on their uniforms to prevent abuse. Logarta said detachable nameplates allowed law enforcers to commit illegal acts and hide their identities by removing their nameplates. The ordinance requires all Manila law enforcers — policemen, firemen, jail guards, traffic enforcers, barangay watchmen, private security guards — to use permanently stitched-on patches on their uniforms. A fine of P4,000 or imprisonment of seven days await violators, Logarta said.

Margaux Ortiz

Gone in a blink

ENTREPRENEUR Phoebe Marie de Guzman, 23, of Moonwalk Village, Las Piñas, lost P136,000 worth of cash and valuables to thieves inside a restaurant at the Robinson's Place in Manila. She told police that she was in a business meeting in Mario's Kitchen on June 14 when two suspects stole her bag while she was looking at the menu. Police said a waiter who had witnessed the theft later identified one of the suspects from a police picture file as Joselito Teodoro, 33, of Pandacan, Manila. The witness said the suspect brought a young boy with him. He said the boy probably took the victim's bag while the older suspect stood as a lookout.

Margaux Ortiz

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because it's what we make of it that matters.

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JUNE 23: DFA'S 105TH ANNIVERSARY

RP's foreign policy: a pillar of strong republic

There are many factors that contribute to a strong republic. Conventional notions of national power are factors that readily define the strength of a republic. However, the soundness and fidelity of national policies, are also a source of strength for a nation. Foreign policy is an important pillar of a strong republic.

The last time the President delivered her State of the Nation Address, she did so while she was concurrently Secretary of Foreign Affairs. A few days later, she turned over the helm of the Department of Foreign Affairs to Senate President Blas F. Ople. It has been almost a year since then. It has been a year of pursuing Philippine foreign policy interests in support of a strong republic.

In his own yearend report to the nation, Secretary Ople last January said that the Philippines, as a nation, is no longer defined exclusively by its territory. The over seven million Filipinos overseas, a significant percentage of the total population of the Philippines, has irrevocably changed the character of our foreign policy. The transnational character of current challenges, from the fight against terror to the fight against communicable disease, from increasing international economic and commercial fusion to greater political and security integration, has also contributed to a critical redirection in our foreign policy.

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Undersecretary
Special Concerns

The lines between what is entirely domestic and what is exclusively international has become blurred. Yet the relationship between developments in the world and within our country have never been clearer. More than ever before, events in other parts of the world can easily have a profound impact on our nation. More than ever before, how we deal with certain challenges in our own country can also have repercussions for the international community.

In the face of mounting instability in the Middle East, one of the greatest challenges to our foreign policy during the first half of this year was to ensure the protection of our Filipinos in that region.

The regime of Saddam Hussein threatened the entire region and our over 1.4 million Filipinos there. Suddenly, the frontlines of our foreign policy began shifting ever closer to a possible use of military action against Iraq.

Our policy was to give political support to the resort to force against the Saddam regime. This was a policy that divided the United Nations and a policy that was challenged by some in the Philippines. Our policy was to further engage the Middle East states hosting our Filipinos, to ensure their cooperation and assistance. Our policy was to be prepared, with a team on the ground, led by a seasoned and respected leader.

Our Filipinos today are safe and, together with the people of their host countries, no longer live in fear of Saddam Hussein's war machine. Today Iraq is free and has a unique opportunity to build a democratic and pluralistic society. The recent dramatic decisions of the United Nations, to work together in building a future for the people of Iraq, have healed many of the divisions over the use of force against Iraq. Our strategic partnership with the United States and the other members of the coalition has been greatly enhanced.

While there is a renewed sense of stability in the Middle East, the long-standing Palestine-Israel conflict, particularly the continued acts of terrorism and the increase in the level of violence, is a matter of grave concern not only for the countries in the Middle East but also for the Philippines. Sadly, some Filipinos have already been casualties of this ancient conflict. We strongly support the efforts of the United States, Russia, the European Union and the Secretary-General of the United Nations to pursue the successful adoption by Palestine and Israel of the comprehensive Roadmap for Peace that will guarantee both the establishment of a Palestinian State and the security of Israel. In spite of some setbacks, we remain hopeful of success.

Terrorism has been the enemy of peace not only in the Middle East but also in many other parts of the world. Preventing its spread and ending this scourge through international cooperation is an important aspect of our foreign policy in support of a strong republic.

International terrorism is the worst scourge visited on humanity since German and Japanese fascism inflicted its cruelties on the peoples of Europe and Asia in World War II. Now the terrorists are plotting the ruin of civilization itself – by attacking the very foundations of world order, law, and stability.

Foreign Secretary Blas F. Ople and Australian Foreign Minister Alexander Downer sign a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) between their two countries on cooperation to combat international terrorism.

By pitting one religious faith against another, they are sowing the seeds of hatred that someday can ignite a clash of civilizations and perhaps the grim scenario of World War III. It is therefore supremely important that this scourge be checked now on every front where terrorism threatens us all.

The fight against international terrorism has strengthened the solidarity of ASEAN which has never been as strong since it was founded in Bangkok in 1967. The Jemaah Islamiyah, the Asian chapter of Al Qaeda, is being checkmated at every point. Their plots to bomb foreign embassies in Singapore and Manila have been successfully thwarted and the suspects are facing or will soon face changes in court. This is the result of excellent cooperation between the member countries of ASEAN, notably Singapore, Malaysia, Thailand and the Philippines. The Jemaah Islamiyah is being stopped through the combined vigilance of the ASEAN states, and their plot to impose a Pan-Islamic state across Southeast Asia, from Southern Thailand to Malaysia, Singapore, Indonesia and the Philippines, will remain just a bad dream and a ludicrous vision.

The strength of the Abu Sayyaf group has been downgraded to just a handful of desperate stragglers in the mountains of Sulu. From being a terrorist lair, the island province of Basilan is now emerging as a showcase of peace and development. Basilan has been completely liberated from the Abu Sayyaf. The remnants of this notorious band have escaped to the Patikul mountains of Sulu, where they are now cornered and relentlessly pursued by the Philippine Armed Forces. The end of the Abu Sayyaf is near, very near. In this respect, we gratefully acknowledge the help of the United States whose troops train with our forces in accordance with the terms of the Mutual Defense Treaty of 1951 and the Visiting Forces of Agreement of 1998, although they are not allowed any combat role under the Philippine Constitution.

President Gloria Macapagal Arroyo congratulates Foreign Affairs Secretary Blas F. Ople after the signing of bilateral agreements between the Philippines and the United States. Looking on are US Secretary of State Colin Powell, DFA Assistant Secretary Cristina Ortega of the Office of American Affairs and other officials.

Our relations with the United States has never been stronger and was further sealed by the President's State Visit to the United States in late May.

But in our fight against terror, we must not amplify the damage done by terrorists or establish stereotypes. In the current international campaign against terrorism, there is a tendency to profile suspected terrorists based on their ethnic or religious background. In some countries, there is a growing intolerance for differences in ethnic background, race and religion, in addition to historical racial discrimination. We must resist the temptation to demonize any faith or religion. We should foster greater inter-faith dialogue to help bridge the gaps that terrorists exploit and hope to widen.

The world's democratic forces have once defeated international fascism. They will also defeat international terrorism. When the world is one day freed from the grip of terror, we will have to thank the leaders of today who have fought this menace with boldness, courage and vision.

A clear vision of the future direction of our foreign policy is essential to ensure the strength of our republic. Our foreign policy will not only have a clear sense of purpose, but also a deep understanding of the need to engage the world in a balanced and even-handed way.

Our strong and strategic relations with the United States has not prevented us from strengthening our ties with other nations, nations who question the intentions and motives of the United States.

In February, President Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo attended the Summit of the Non-Aligned Movement in Kuala Lumpur, where she met and interacted with the leaders of the developing world. Much of the focus of the NAM Summit was on Iraq. The President did not have any qualms about our call on Iraq to allow its people to be free and our support for categorical action on Iraq, should it fail to do so. Critics predicted that the President would be censured for her position. She was elected Vice-President of NAM instead.

While we have strengthened our ties with the developing nations, we have also made major advances in our efforts to reinforce our relations with the countries of the Islamic world. Our engagement has resulted in commitments from Islamic states to assist us in our search for peace in the Southern Philippines. These countries have also condemned all acts of terrorism in Mindanao and have committed themselves to respect the territorial integrity of the Philippines. An important gauge to this policy came when the Secretary of Foreign Affairs received an unprecedented invitation to attend this year's meeting of the foreign ministers of the Organization of the Islamic Conference (OIC) in Tehran. The Secretary attended this meeting and had the rare opportunity of interacting with the important leaders of the Islamic world.

In the United Nations, our policies have strengthened our bid for a non-permanent seat in the Security Council.

Philippine foreign policy engagement has also proceeded based on a profound understanding and deep appreciation for democratic values and the importance of promoting tolerance.

During the recently concluded 36th ASEAN Ministerial Meeting, the Philippines took the lead in seeking a stronger stance from ASEAN on two important issues for the region: Myanmar and the Korean Peninsula.

The immense value that many ASEAN members give to the ASEAN principle of "non-interference in internal affairs" threatened to ensure that the issue of Myanmar would be treated with kid gloves or even glossed over. Our advocacy proved to be the turning point

As a result, ASEAN adopted its strongest position so far on Myanmar, including a call for the peaceful transition to democracy and the lifting of restrictions on Daw Aung San Suu Kyi and her political party.

ASEAN has taken an unprecedented position on our fellow members. In turn, ASEAN received the assurances of Myanmar that they will heed what we have said.

The world sees ASEAN through the lenses that they have focused on Myanmar.

We have come to a point where our policy of constructive engagement meets up with our policy of non-interference. We believe that both shall stand.

We have come to a point where our policy of constructive engagement is pitted against policies of other nations of isolation and intimidation. We believe that the policy that is based on peaceful dialogue and mutual respect should, and shall win out.

But Myanmar should not be seen as a test for policies, and the stand of ASEAN and the desires of the other countries concerned over Myanmar may not necessarily be at cross-purposes. Perhaps we can work together in addressing those concerns, through peaceful dialogue, where sober reason and not rigid rhetoric prevails.

The nuclear menace has cast a long shadow on our region. We ended the last world war with an atomic bomb. We closed the last millennium with nuclear tests. And today the top four flashpoints in our region, South Asia, the Taiwan Straits, the South China Sea and the Korean Peninsula, all have a decidedly nuclear dimension.

Of immediate concern is the denuclearization of the Korean Peninsula. Although clearly, sincere efforts have been taken by some of those involved, it seems positions have hardened and disturbing ultimatums issued. Countries should continue to impress upon the DPRK the seriousness of their concerns. But the level of rhetoric should always consider that we will achieve little if we push away the very party that we hope to engage.

We believe that we must begin to sift through the rhetoric and begin considering security and economic approaches. We talk not of sanctions but of incentives. For a verifiable commitment to denuclearize, the DPRK could be offered security assurances and an economic package, the major component of which is a normalization of economic relations. Political and economic mainstreaming might help towards achieving a lasting solution.

Halfway through this year, as the Department of Foreign Affairs marks its 105th anniversary, our foreign policy has achieved many of its strategic objectives. Much remains to be done. But with the enduring clarity in leadership and direction, we can be confident that our foreign policy will continue to be a strategic pillar of our strong republic.

DFA eyes additional services, taps Smart

Foreign Affairs Secretary Blas F. Ople approved an agreement with Smart Telecommunications to increase accessibility and promote better services to the public.

Smart Telecoms, a major subsidiary of PLDT with the biggest subscriber base of cell phone users, agreed to host and carry text-based services offered by the DFA to the public under the service name *"TXTDFA."* Overseas Filipino workers and their relatives with various concerns can simply text 287 to access a menu of services, which range from Assistance to OFWs to Passport Matters.

Smart subscribers with a cell phone may also text the same number to retrieve the address and telephone number of a foreign embassy based in Manila or any of our Philippine Embassies abroad.

Potential victims of passport fraud can also report fixers and illegal recruiters offering fake passports to the same number.

"The idea is to provide the public with immediate access to the DFA so that their queries can be immediately addressed by our own personnel through text messaging," Secretary Ople said.

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Editor **Abelardo S. Ulanday**

SAMAHAN ANG MGA BATANG IWAS DROGA!

'BIDA' AT THE LUNETA
President Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo speaks at the launching of the 'Batang Iwas Droga: Bida ng Matatag na Republika,' or BIDA, at the Quirino Grandstand at the Rizal Park on Saturday. The program spearheaded by the Philippine Amusement and Gaming Corp. aims to prevent drug abuse among children through an animated series featuring three "child heroes" Luzy, Victor and Mindo, whose images appear alongside that of the President's. RANDY HORMILLOSA

Cops want P5M for drug tests

By Edson Tandoc Jr.

GIVE ME the money.

National Capital Regional Police Office chief deputy director Gen. Reynaldo Velasco needs P5.1 million to implement the mandatory drug testing of 17,000 Metro Manila policemen.

Velasco said the money could be taken from the P1 billion anti-drug funds that will be sourced from the government's lotto operations.

The P1-billion anti-drug fund has been allocated to the Philippine National Police and the Philippine Drug Enforcement Agency.

"Requiring all the 17,000 policemen to undergo the mandatory drug testing is necessary to clear all doubts against our law enforcers," Velasco said in a statement.

A test costs P300, and a confirmatory test using the Gas Chromotography/Mass Spectrometry equipment costs P800.

But PDEA Chief Anselmo Avenido questioned Velasco's P5.1 million request, saying "I don't know where he (Velasco) based the P300 amount for every drug test. We have our own laboratory here in the PNP where a test would only cost P100."

Avenido said Velasco should submit his proposal to the PNP Task Force on anti-drugs, because "PDEA does not accept individual proposal units."

Velasco has also appealed to Metro Manila mayors to fund the drug tests of the policemen in their respective areas.

He said that because of budgetary constraints, the NCRPO has been conducting only random drug testing of its policemen.

Last week, three of the 100 NCRPO personnel who participated in the random drug testing tested positive for banned substances.

Authorities are waiting for the results of the confirmatory tests on the three policemen. If the three are confirmed positive for drugs, they would face sanctions and summary dismissal proceedings, Velasco said.

"As long as there are serious doubts on our police credibility, (it will) be difficult to fully involve the citizens in the anti-drug campaign," he added.

Department of Interior and Local Government Secretary Jose Lina Jr. announced last June 17 that PDEA's three-month anti-drug plan will receive P1 billion from the government's lotto operations.

Meanwhile, President Macapagal-Arroyo has ordered the PNP to deploy more men to the Unviersity Belt to ferret out pushers dealing illegal drugs to students.

The President issued the order at the launching on Saturday of the Batang Iwas Droga where she mobilized 15,000 children between 6 and 12 years old in the all-out war against illegal drugs.

Malabon settlers ask for reprieve from demolition

By Tina Santos

URBAN poor families whose homes will be demolished to give way to the North Luzon Railways project in Malabon City have appealed to local officials for a reprieve from the scheduled demolition of their shanties.

"I hope the housing agencies would extend the deadline they had given us before they demolish our houses," said Clarita Eneria, leader of one of the associations representing some 2500 families.

The affected residents want the relocation site for them to be prepared first.

Although the residents have yet to receive a copy of the demolition notice, the North Luzon Railways Corp. and the National Housing Authority have already announced that the Philippine National Railway right-of-way in Malabon has to be cleared by end of July.

NHA general manager Ed Pamintuan had said that the relocation program should proceed as planned due to the tight schedule of the North rail project.

Eneria, who spoke on behalf of the affected residents, said the NLRC should just skip their area in building the railway to buy more time for the development of the Tanza property, where they would be relocated.

"Where do they expect us to go? I hope they will understand our sentiments," Eneria said in Filipino.

2 lawmen finally taste peril of work

Hit in shootout with robbers

By Edson Tandoc Jr.

A ROOKIE lawman and a civilian traffic enforcer in Parañaque got a taste of the perils of their jobs when they were hit in a shootout with six robbers who also wounded a commuter before fleeing.

Fortunately for Police Officer 1 Jonee Mamigo, traffic aide Marcelo Globio and jeepney passenger Bernie Galope, they will live to ponder on the aftermath of their experience.

According to PO2 Lyndon Guerrero, Southern Police District Station 4 desk officer, six men held up the passengers of a jeepney along A. Santos Avenue in Barangay San Dionisio, Parañaque, on Saturday night.

After the heist, the suspects fled by boarding the jeepney driven by a certain Crispin Villadares, who was on his way to Baclaran.

Witnesses managed to report the incident to nearby traffic enforcers, who in turn radioed the police for assistance.

Lawmen quickly set up a checkpoint along Naia Road near Kabihasnan Street and started inspecting the passengers of jeepneys bound for Baclaran.

The suspects reportedly panicked upon seeing the lawmen and opened fire, hitting Mamigo and Globio in the first volley of shots.

Mamigo was shot in the left arm and stomach while Globio was hit in the left foot.

Galope, who was in one of the jeepneys, was wounded in the left thigh in the ensuing shootout.

In the confusion that followed, four of the suspects managed to flee on foot while two others hid themselves among 200 members of the El Shaddai group that was holding a prayer rally nearby along Kabihasnan.

Mamigo, Globio and Galope were rushed to the Olivares General Hospital for treatment.

Police are still looking for the suspects.

LATE SPORTS

Aces outlast Phone Pals

By Dennis U. Eroa

ALASKA made sure there was no last-minute collapse this time as it downed Talk N Text, 86-77, and tied their PBA Samsung All-Filipino best-of-five semifinal series last night at the Araneta Coliseum.

Sweet-shooting John Arigo had another explosive performance, scattering 32 points, 13 of them in the fourth period, to complement the efforts of Mike Cortez and Ali Peek who blunted the Aces' finals stand in the fourth period.

Alaska gave away a six-point lead in the final 18 seconds in bowing to the Phone Pals, 115-109 in overtime in Game One. But coach Tim Cone's charges would not be denied this time.

Harvey Carey's undergoal stab enabled the Phone Pals to move within, 75-77, but Arigo drilled in a difficult shot to punctuate the Aces' closing 9-2 bomb.

Asi Taulava hit 23 points, but the Phone Pals failed to find a solution to the fluid offense of the Aces.

The Pals fared miserably in the three-point area, converting just one of 20 attempts. Alapag, who engaged Cortez in a backcourt duel, made the lone triple. He missed six other attempts.

Muscleman Ali Peek, Don Allado and Don Camaso combined for 39 of Alaska's 55 rebounds.

SCORES:

ALASKA 86—Arigo 32, Cortez 19, Peek 12, Camaso 11, Duat 6, Allado 4, Feihl 2, Padilla 0, Cablay 0, Noble 0.

TALK N TEXT 77— Taulava 23, Carey 21, Alapag 9, Villa 7, Fran 6, Ravena 5, Telan 2, Manalo 2, Belano 2.

Quarters: 18-22, 44-34, 64-53, 86-77

Doctor in NBI extort case welcomes probe

THE DOCTOR in Pangasinan who fell victim to alleged extortion by National Bureau of Investigation medico-legal officers welcomes any investigation on the death of her patient following a Caesarian section that she performed.

"The truth is on my side and it will all set us free," Dr. Lenette Chan of Rosales town said.

Chan issued this statement after Dr. Anthony Castro, medico-legal officer of the NBI in Dagupan City, accused her of failing to undertake the right medical procedures that could have saved her patient last March.

Chan has accused Castro of arranging a P200,000 pay-off to Dr. Maximo Reyes, NBI medico-legal unit head, who allegedly promised to acquit her in the death of her patient.

She refused to provide information about the case and asked media to wait for the official results of the investigation.

"I hope the truth will come out and justice will prevail," she added. *Yolanda Fuertes*

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Realtors survive sputtering finish

STA. LUCIA playmaker Paolo Mendoza slips past Will Antonio of Coca-Cola in first-half action of last night's game.
AUGUST DELA CRUZ

GAMES ON WEDNESDAY
(*Philsports Arena*)
5 p.m.—Talk N' Text vs Alaska
7:30 p.m.—Sta. Lucia Realty vs Coca Cola

By Dennis U. Eroa

STA. LUCIA Realty played flawlessly in the first three quarters and nearly forgot that there were still 12 minutes of basketball left.

After erecting a 23-point lead, the Realtors avoided a monumental collapse in the fourth quarter to hack out a pulsating 90-87 victory over defending champion Coca- Cola and tie their PBA Samsung All-Filipino best-of-five semifinal series last night at the Araneta Coliseum.

The Realtors were already thinking of the third game set Wednesday after posting a huge 77-52 lead at the end of the third quarter, but got the shock of their lives when the Tigers used a crippling full-court, trapping defense which fueled a blazing comeback.

With the Realtors committing turnover after turnover, the Tigers dropped a big 17-2 blast that cut the lead to 77-69 before Paolo Mendoza's triple from the side woke Sta. Lucia from its stupor, 80-69, 6:40 remaining.

The Realtors got clobbered by the Tigers in Game One, 85-70, last Friday and badly needed a win to keep their finals bid alive.

"We were surprised by the trap," said coach Alfrancis Chua of Sta. Lucia which bounced back after an 85-70 loss in Game One last Friday.

For the second straight game, Sta. Lucia missed the services of scoring machine Kenneth Duremdes, but got the needed lift from big men Marlou Aquino, Dennis Espino and Wilmer Ong.

The 6-foot-9 Aquino erupted with 19 points in the first half alone and finished with 31 points on a 12-of-15 field goal shooting. He added eight rebounds and three blocked shots.

Duremdes continued to rest his strained left calf and watched in glee from the SLR bench as the Realtors grabbed an early 27-17 lead and took a 48-37 advantage at halftime.

With Aquino unstoppable underneath and Ong adding more fire to the hot SLR offense, the Realtors seemed to have the game all wrapped up by padding the advantage to 23 points, 75-52, at the end of the third quarter.

Coca Cola struggled against the 2-3 zone defense of Sta. Lucia and seemed doomed as Jeffrey Cariaso, Rudy Hatfield, Ato Morano and Johnny Abarrientos proved ineffective from the backcourt.

But Rafi Reavis unloaded 11 of his 28 points in the fourth quarter as the Tigers came roaring back into contention. Coca-Cola moved within 79-86 and inched closer at 82-87 before Ong momentarily stopped the uprising with a free throw, 88-82, time down to 38 seconds.

With the crowd roaring in delight, the Tigers even had the chance to come to within three but Rob Wainwright missed an open three-point shot.

SCORES:

STA. LUCIA 90— Aquino 31, Francisco 14, Espino 13, Mendoza 13, Ong 10, Adriano 6, Tan 2, Webb 1, Yu 0.

COCA COLA 87—Reavis 28, Hatfield 15, Cariaso 13, Junio 9, Wainwright 8, Avenido 5, Antonio 5, Hugnatan 2, Bolado 2, Morano 0, Abarrientos 0.

Quarters: 27-17, 48-37, 75-52, 90-87

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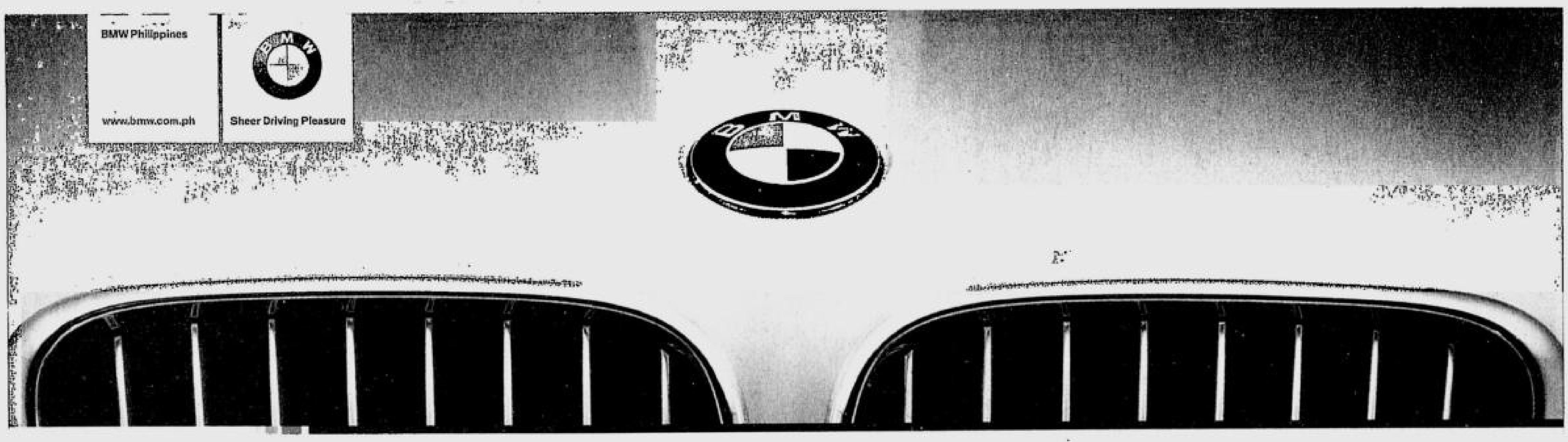

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The well-publicised Senate version of the Excise Tax bill will result in **higher**, not lower, retail prices for our cars. While we do not know the full impact of the excise taxes (as the final version of the Excise Tax bill for our industry still has to be passed), our price simulations reflect higher prices – some quite substantially so. Our authorised BMW dealers have this price simulation, and they will be happy to talk you through it.

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DESPITE driving problems, Rosales scored an even 72. GETTY IMAGES

Jenny matches par in rain-hit Rochester

AS everyone struggled under the tough conditions, Jenny Rosales bucked her wild driving with an even-par 72 yesterday and slightly improved her position going into the final round of the $1.2 Wegman's Rochester in Pittsford, New York.

It was a difficult day for scoring at the rain-drenched Locust Hill Country Club and Rosales was lucky to walk away with a decent score despite hitting just seven fairways.

Only 11 players were able to break par in the third round and Rachel Teske, leader by four, was not even among them.

Rosales still managed to reach 14 greens in regulation but she needed to knock in three birdies down the last six holes to join Karrie Webb and Laurie Rinker-Graham in 35th spot at 218 from her previous 42nd in the second round.

Teske, the Australian who won a four-way playoff for the Giant Eagle Classic last week in Ohio that included Rosales, seems headed to a back-to-back romp.

Teske continued her magical putting, hitting a 15-footer on the last-hole to save par and a 72 for a 209 aggregate after 54 holes that widened her lead to four strokes.

Tied for second at 213 were Americans Stephanie Louden (70) and Brandie Burton (70) and Koreans Se Ri Pak (72) and Soo Yun Kang (72).

Dorothy Delasin, the Fil-American who won Rookie of the Year honors in 2000, was among those in 38th with a 72-219.

Teske, 10th on the LPGA money list, doubled her season winnings with $150,000 last week and cannot remember ever having a four-stroke lead entering a final round. And this is her fifth tournament in a row.

"It is tough. I've been a little bit tired and the course is tough," Teske said. "Every shot demands that you give 100 percent.

"I've been playing really well and today was a really good test for me because the course played tough. I played really solid so I'd like to think that I could keep on playing good shots tomorrow."

Teske made 16 pars in the round. Her lone birdie came at the 502-yard par-5 fourth hole when she sank a 20-foot putt and two holes later got her only bogey when she two-putted from 10 feet.

Pak remained confident.

"All we can do is make some more putts," Pak said. "My balls just never went in. I need to concentrate on birdies and not just saving pars. I will give my best in the final round and just try to play great."

"I was prety happy about my 18th hole. That made my day," said Pak. "The last three days was for me struggling on the green. I just really need some birdies out there."

"Last couple of weeks my putting just stopped. I mean my ball never find the cup, I don't know why. It's just blind or gets lost."

Rosales, whose LPGA campaign is supported by the Philippine Amusement and Gaming, Corp. and the American Eye Center, had gotten into a tie for third after a superb three-under 69.

But while that 69 was to be her best start in four LPGA seasons, the next day was something different.

Rosales soared to a five-over 77–tying her worst score in 2003–and found herself plunging all the way down to 42nd spot. *Jong Arcano with wire reports.*

RP kids ready for Junior World wars

By Jong Arcano

SAYING this year's contingent is one of the best-prepared ever, Jungolf president Gerry Handog yesterday expressed confidence the Philippines can score a victory or two in next month's Callaway Junior World golf championships in San Diego, California.

Handog said at least six of the 24 jungolfers set to campaign in five age-group divisions have strong chances of winning.

Though she will be elevated to the Class D (9-10 years) division, Dottie Ardina—who broke the country's four-year title drought by winning the 8-under class in overpowering fashion last year—remains the top hope of the delegation.

Wolen Juan Superal, the big boy whose record-breaking scores made him the toast of the recent jungolf summer circuit, is another title threat in Class D (9-10) as well as Miguel Tabuena, Bino de la Paz and Kristina Potenciano, who should also contend in the youngest (Class E) division.

The bulk of the delegation supported by Samsung, the Philippine Sports Commission, Airlift Asia and Manila Southwoods, will be flying to the US via Philippine Airlines on July 3.

Also in the team are John Kier Abdon, Miko Alejandro, Linnel de Villa, Mikee Camitoc, Debie de Villa, Andrea Legaspi, Terence Macatangay, Mia Piccio, Justin Tambunting, Eugene Bunyi, Nico Sevilla, Geleen Handog, Aran Ray Olea, Wolen Juan Superal, Matet Salivio and Chris Jordan Mamaril.

They are to be joined in San Diego by Tabuena, Carl Santos Ocampo, Andie Unson and Jobim Carlos, who had left earlier.

In a recent sendoff party for the players at the Makati Golf Club, Jungolf chair Amalia "Mommy" Montecillo exhorted them to "bring home the bacon again."

PAL VP for marketing Bong Cruz, Federation of Golf Clubs Philippines chairperson Richie Garcia and Airlift Asia president Rico Brizuela also delivered inspirational messages to the kids.

After their summer campaign, the jungolfers underwent a two-week training under noted swing coach Bong Lopez at Manila Southwoods and rules briefings by Boy Blue Ocampo.

"So many people have contributed to this cause and the kids will go to San Diego well-prepared and their morale very high," Handog said.

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JUNGOLFERS and officials flash the No. 1 sign during the sendoff party at the Makati Golf Club. ROGER MARGALLO

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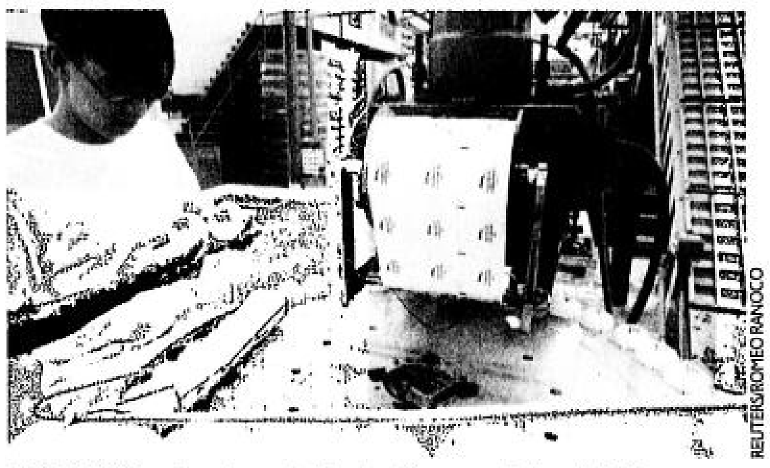
New balls from RP

A first at Wimbledon



REUTERS/ROMEO RANOCO

A FILIPINO worker inspects Dunlop Slazenger's tennis balls.

When champion Lleyton Hewitt or opponent Ivo Karlovic slams the first tennis ball at Wimbledon on Monday no one will be watching more closely than Julius Manalo thousands of kilometers away in the Philippines.

Manalo, who manages Dunlop Slazenger's Philippine plant, which made the balls, knows that the workmanship of he and his staff will be on the line—or, he hopes, just inside it.

And the possibility that some traditionalists in the crowd might choke on their strawberries knowing balls for the world's most prestigious tennis tournament were produced for the first time in 101 years outside England doesn't bother him in the least.

"Personally, I am very proud of the fact they have chosen to do the balls for the first time in the Philippines for two reasons," he said.

"I think it shows the confidence of the Dunlop group in the capability of our factory and the people working in it, and secondly it's a big opportunity for the country in light of the fact that we've seen many companies closing down or laying off people in the past three or four years." Dunlop Slazenger shifted its ball-manufacturing operations in Germany, South Africa and the United Kingdom to the Philippines over the past two years to cut costs as global economic weakness bit into its business.

The closure of the Barnsley plant last year ended a century-old tradition of producing the Wimbledon balls in England.

Now the company's entire global output of tennis and squash balls rolls out of its factory on the Bataan peninsula near Manila.

Dunlop estimates the plant produces around 60 percent of all tennis balls sold worldwide and about 90 percent of squash balls.

"We are the sole source for the group for tennis and squash balls and it is quite a significant market share that we have, so you can imagine if the confidence of the group was any less then they wouldn't have put all their eggs in one basket," Manalo said.

The Philippine operation is no stranger to producing balls for top tournaments. It has been supplying its fluorescent yellow rubber balls to the Australian Open since 1994.

But plant superintendent Danny Mercado admits he will be a bit more nervous than usual when the balls he helped produce for Wimbledon start rocketing over the net at over 200 kilometers per hour or more.

"The first match that they will be using the balls is the one that will gauge our product," he said.

Tennis in the Philippines is largely the preserve of the well-heeled in Manila and other big cities, with the country's sporting passions revolving around basketball and nine-ball pool.

Many Filipinos could rattle off career titles won by basketball star Michael Jordan or nine-ball idol Efren Reyes but most would scratch their heads at the mention of Pete Sampras or Serena Williams.

The highest a Filipino has reached in the sport's international professional rankings is 170, achieved by Felix Barrientos in the early 1990s.

Manalo is not expecting an upsurge of top tennis players in the Philippines any time soon, but he hopes that news the country can produce world class balls might just spark some interest in the game. *Reuters*

He waltzed when he could have rolled

BARE EYE

Recah Trinidad

BEETHOVEN, Straus or Wagner could be at fault. If not, the blame should be on military drillmasters.

Look, if not for an excess of musicality in the challenger, if Vitali Klitschko had opted to go out of rhythm just once in the early rounds, he would by now be the undisputed world heavyweight boxing king.

Klitschko, a 4-1 underdog who yesterday took on world heavyweight champion Lennox Lewis on a four-week notice, threw thundering combinations in the opening rounds. The punches landed and flashed, but more notable than their rattling impact was the unerring rhythm behind the big blows. They were all executed in a calculated, disciplined, airtight tempo, nothing fancy, nothing wasted.

***

Lewis, suddenly looking old and slow, was jolted more than once. At one suspenseful point in the second round, Lewis had appeared headed for the canvas, his legs sagged and were about to give in.

Yes, this was the sweet, rare moment fighters wait for. The instance to go for the kill. The rule of thumb is to throw caution to the wind, jump in.

Sorry, but Klitschko would not be caught doing the expected. He had his own plans, his own deep-seated fight discipline.

Listening and dancing to an inner rhythm, he opted to stay at a distance, he refused to be distracted and did it his own, strict way.

He waltzed when he could have rolled.

Of course, yesterday's world heavyweight fight became a true delight mainly because of Klitschko who ably turned his challenge into an unforgettable coming-out party.

***

Anyway, that punch desperately thrown by Lewis which opened a gaping wound over the challenger's left eye was itself not typical of the champ.

Not exactly wild, but you could read the deadly meanness of a caveman's club in that swinging right.

The punch was so raw and hard it opened a gaping cut over the brow, as though Klitschko had instantly grown a third eye.

Yes, there was no rhythm, the blow itself was never pre-planned, but that right punch made all the difference and saved the crown for the weary champ.

***

As it would turn out, and confirmed by Klitschko himself, his plan was to tire down Lewis before taking out the champ in the seventh round.

Who knows, maybe Klitschko himself had been overwhelmed by the unexpected tameness of Lewis who proved too soft and was an all-too-willing target in the opening rounds?

When the fight was stopped, Klitskcho, leading in the scorecards, uncharacteristically lost his cool.

He protested and cried it was unfair.

***

It was not.

Just like in his only only loss (against Chris Byrd) prior to yesterday's setback, Klitschko lost it on an injury, not on a lack of capability and absence of skills.

Funny how experts had said Lewis would not get much by beating Klitschko, a former world military champ who has a doctorate in sports science and who speaks four languages.

Suddenly, the cry is for a rematch.

For the moment though, Lewis should be congratulated for having survived Klitschko, a more-than-worthy challenger who could have won it all had he gone for the kill early.

And thanks to the rhythmic, waltzy challenger, the reign of Lennox Lewis on Heavyweight Hill, for once, can not be defined as barren and dreary, as it used to be.

PBA golfers take on media at W'Wack

OVERPOWERED the last time up, the Philippine Basketball Association group seeks revenge against the sports media players when the second leg of the 2003 PBA Golf Classic is played tomorrow at the Wack Wack west course in Mandaluyong.

The PBA is set to field league commissioner Noli Eala, board members Butch Alejo, Bobby Kanapi, Lito Alvarez, Ricky Vargas, Al Panlilio, Wilfred Uytengsu, Ira Maniquis and Ely Capacio and team officials Frankie Lim, Andy Jao and John Lim in its bid for the equalizer.

Sportswriters dominated action in the opening leg played at the east course of Wack Wack with the INQUIRER's Jun Engracia winning Class A, Musong Castillo of People's Journal ruling Class B and Star's Nelson Beltran emerging as Class C champion.

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Ex-champ Tyson arrested in NY hot

NEW YORK—Mike Tyson was released from a New York police precinct, hours after his arrest on assault charges following a brawl with two men outside a hotel.

The former heavyweight champion, who was charged with assault in the third degree, a misdemeanor, walked silently past reporters standing outside a Brooklyn police station in a driving rain Saturday afternoon.

Fans of the boxer shouted "Mike! Mike!" as he was led out by police.

Tyson, who turns 37 Tuesday, was arrested at 5:30 a.m. after a fight with two Pennsylvania men outside a hotel, police said. All three were guests at the hotel.

According to police, Samuel Velez, 31, and Nestor Alvarez, 24, were with a woman outside the hotel when the fight began. One of the men used a metal pole grabbed from the lobby against Tyson, who was treated for minor cuts to his hands. He had his right hand bandaged when he left the police station.

A source close to the investigation said the two men started the fight with Tyson, adding that the boxer feared the men would hit him with the pole.

"They did instigate it," the source told The Associated Press. "They were harassing him, saying things to him. But Tyson was the one who threw the first punch."

Velez and Alvarez were charged with menacing in the second degree, menacing in the third degree and harassment, all misdemeanors, said a spokesperson for Brooklyn District Attorney Charles J. Hynes. Velez and Alvarez pleaded not guilty at an early Sunday arraignment.

One of the men and their female companion were treated for minor injuries at Bellevue Hospital, police said. Tyson was not taken to the hospital.

Shelly Finkel, adviser to the Brooklyn-born boxer, did not know any of the details of the confrontation.

"I don't know anything except what I heard this morning," Finkel said. "I'm in the process of trying to find out."

Finkel said he spoke to Tyson on Tuesday, and the boxer said he planned to travel to Phoenix.

Tyson, with a long history of legal trouble, was conv
in 1992 and was sen
years in prison. He
years before being re
role.

In a television i
month, Tyson said he
about the conviction
rape his accuser, f
pageant contestant De
ton, and her mother.

In 1997, he bit o
Evander Holyfield's

Brutal escape for

Cut over left eye ends Klitschko's audacious challeng

LOS ANGELES—Vitali Klitschko was bloodied but still willing. He had given Lennox Lewis all he wanted and more, yet after six rounds he sat bleeding on his stool as a ring doctor ended his chance of becoming heavyweight champion.

Klitschko hurt Lewis during six brawling and sometimes brutal rounds, exposing the 37-year-old champion as an aging fighter, who just a year ago had looked devastating when he stopped Mike Tyson in the eighth round.

An entertaining fight ended when the ring doctor ordered it stopped after the sixth round because of a bad cut over the challenger's left eye. Klitschko was winning the bout on all three scorecards. All three ringside judges had the Ukrainian winning 58-56 when the fight was stopped.

Klitschko, bleeding badly from a cut over his left eye, jumped off his stool in disbelief, yelling "No, no, no" and going across the ring toward Lewis as if he wanted the fight to continue.

"I can see very well," Klitschko complained. "I don't know why the doctor stopped the fight."

Lewis was tired, but more than willing.

"If the fight went on, I would have knocked him out," said Lewis, who became only the third heavyweight champion his age or older to successfully defend a title. "There is no way he could have finished the fight. He was just deteriorated anyway."

The crowd at Staples Center booed wildly, and Klitschko held his arms up in victory.

"Right now I feel like the people's champion," Klitschko said. "I did not want them to stop the fight. My strategy was to take it into the seventh or eighth round and my strategy was working perfectly.

Even Lewis contended: "He's a legitimate No. 1 contender."

Lewis, who earned a reported $10 million, improved to 41-2-1, 32 knockouts. Klitschko is 32-2 with 31 knockouts.

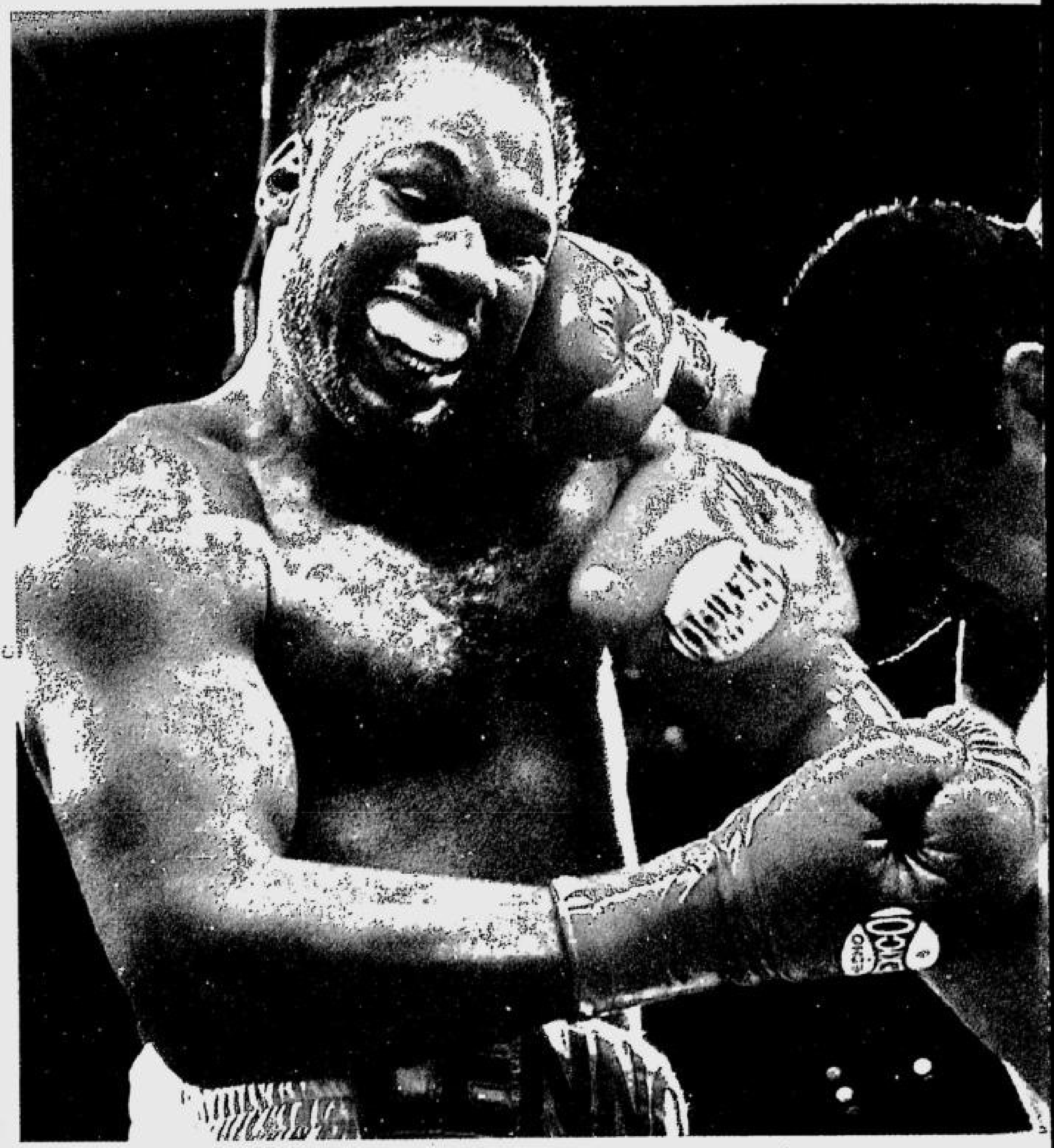
Klitschko went into the fight—with just two weeks' notice—a 4-1 underdog and wasn't even supposed to be the best fighter in his family. That honor belonged to his brother, Wladimir, who worked his corner against Lewis.

But the 6-foot-7 (1.98-meter) Ukrainian came out and traded punches from the opening bell, rocking Lewis in the second and third rounds and hitting him with almost every left jab he threw. Lewis looked tired and old, but did enough to come back and land uppercuts and right hands.

"We are big guys and any punch is going to hurt," Lewis said. "I do give him credit. I gave him a chance to fight. He has an unusual European style. I was just getting my second wind."

One big right hand appeared to open a cut in the third round that proved to be the undoing of Klitschko. Because the cut was caused by a punch and not a head butt, it didn't matter that Klitschko was leading on the scorecards when the fight was stopped.

Ring doctor Paul Wallace said he stopped the fight not because of the blood, but because Klitschko's eyelid was covering his eye and he had to move his head to see.


CHALLENGER Klitschko, right, lands a right to the head of Lewis in the second round.

A JUBILANT Lewis keeps his two world championship belts. AP

"When he raised his head up, his upper lid covered his field of vision," Wallace said. "At that point I had no other option but to stop the fight. If he had to move his head to see me, there was no way
defend his way against a punch."

The normally mild mannered
who speaks four languages and ho
vanced college degree, was visibly
had to be restrained by his broth
point.

"He is a great fighter. I won th
points," Klitschko said. "I want a r
showed everybody that I can figh
Lewis."

He's not likely to get a rematch,
Lewis continues to fight. Lewis is
possible bout with Roy Jones Jr.
year that could mean huge money
fighters.

Klitschko was trying to become
heavyweight champion ever and
fighters combined for a record 504
(227 kilograms) between them.

Lewis weighed 256½ pounds
grams), the heaviest of his career,
peared soft in the middle. For one
times in the 6-foot-5 (1.93 meter

BATTERED but unbowed Klitschko wants a rematch. AP

'I am destroyed with this decision'

LOS ANGELES—Vitali Klitschko reintroduced himself to US fight fans Saturday, not as the man who quit against Chris Byrd but as a fighter incensed by being forced to quit.

"I'm destroyed with this decision," Klitschko said after the referee stopped his World Boxing Council heavyweight fight against Lennox Lewis before the seventh round because of a nasty cut over Klitschko's left eye.

Klitschko, leading 58-56 on all three judges' cards at the time, leapt up from his stool in shock.

"I can't believe it," said Klitschko, who circled the ring with his brother Wladimir wiping blood off his face with a towel.

He climbed a stanchion and beat his chest to the cheers of the crowd at Staples Center.

It was a far cry from the image that most American fans had of the German-based Ukrainian.

That was of Klitschko, his shoulder injured, failing to start the 10th round against Chris Byrd of the United States in April of 2000.

'I know if this fight don't stop I win this fight on points'

Klitschko maintains that was the right decision, but Saturday's enforced stoppage was something else.

"I work so long for this fight," he said. "I believed I would be world champion. It's not a problem. I can see with these eyes. It's a simple cut. I know if this fight don't stop I win this fight on points," he said. "I know I can knock him out in 11 or 12 rounds. I took a lot of criticism for the Chris Byrd fight," Klitschko added. "It gave me a lot of motivation to show who I am. I know I am a fighter and I can fight." Since that defeat, Klitschko had won five in a row, including four by knockout.

That didn't stop Lewis, in the build-up to this fight, questioning Klitschko's heart.

While Klitschko won over a lot of fans Saturday, he wants more.

"I hope there will be a rematch, and in the rematch I'll show everybody who I am," he said. "I want to be world champion and I will be world champion." *AFP*

ALI (left) connects with a hook to the face of Mahfood. AFP

Laila extends unbeaten run to 15

LOS ANGELES—Laila Ali, daughter of boxing legend Muhammad Ali, remained undefeated in the ring here Saturday, stopping Valerie Mahfood in the sixth round of their scheduled eight-round bout.

Ali didn't dominate Mahfood throughout as she did when the two fought on Nov. 8, 2002, when Ali pounded away at Mahfood until referee Joe Cortez stepped in midway through the eighth round.

On Saturday at Staples Center, where Briton Lennox Lewis was set to defend his World Boxing Council heavyweight title against Ukrainian Vitali Klitschko in the main event, Ali looked less sharp.

Mahfood managed to land her share of punches in exchanges in the third and fifth, but was wilting under an Ali onslaught when referee David Mendoza stepped between them and stopped the fight at one minute 17 seconds of the sixth.

"I trained harder for this fight than I did for our first match-up," said Ali, the Women's International Boxing Association, International Women's Boxing Federation and International Boxing Association super middleweight champion who took her record to 15-0, with 12 victories inside the distance.

"I didn't underestimate her and she didn't underestimate me.

"I wasn't as careful this time as last time I fought her," Ali said, but added: "She didn't hurt me at all." The first meeting between the two was aired on ESPN2, and was the first women's fight to headline the cable television channel's Friday Night Fights program.

In contrast, Home Box Office declined to show Saturday's bout, a decision that rankled Ali.

"She and I showed that we have superior skills," Ali said. "People want to watch us. They (HBO) just don't get it."

Laila Ali, daughter of Muhammad Ali, said even world heavyw
champion Lennox Lewis coul
match her eye for the spectacu
ter, she stopped Valerie Mahf
six rounds on Saturday.

Ali scored a technical knock
ter one minute 17 seconds
sixth with a barrage of punc
Mahfood's head to regain all th
her world super-middleweigh
on show at the Staples Center.

Ali, fighting on the underc
Lewis' world title clash with
Klitschko, told reporters: "(
was the most exciting fight
night. I am a great fighter and
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bout. Tyson's Nevada boxing license was suspended for a year, and he was fined $3 million. In 1999, he was released from a Maryland jail after serving 3½ months for assaulting the two motorists.

Last year, he threw a punch at Lennox Lewis' bodyguard at a news conference announcing a fight between the two, setting off a brawl between Tyson and Lewis.
AP

TYSON leaves the 84th Precinct Station House in the borough of Brooklyn, New York after his arrest on asssault charges stemming from a brawl with two men at a hotel. REUTERS

Suico keeps OPBF title

By Salven L. Lagumbay
Contributor

RANDY Suico of the Philippines cruised to a lopsided unanimous decision win over Japanese Kazunori Fujita to retain his Orient Pacific Boxing Federation super-featherweight crown Saturday night at the Korakuen Hall in Tokyo.

The big-punching Suico, ranked WBC No. 3 junior lightweight, thus extended his unbeaten streak to 20 wins, including 17 knockouts.

Suico said he injured his left hand in the third round and had to use his skills to outclass the Japanese prospect en route to a 99-93, 99-93, 98-93 win that may pave the way for a crack at the WBC crown within the year.

The Mandaue City-raised Suico was assisted in his corner by Japanese manager Joe Koizumi and trainer Juanito Ablaca.

Suico took the OPBF throne on March 27, 2002 with a sixth-round TKO win over Korean Sungho Yuh in Cebu.

Meanwhile, Suico's nephew, Benedict, also scored a unanimous decision win over Jojo Pateno Friday night in a special Fistorama card held at the Malacañang Palace grounds. The young prospect has remained unbeaten in five fights.

Lewis

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AP

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on's career, he was punching up at an opponent.

"I knew his condition was not good, he's very heavy. He couldn't fight hard," Klitschko said. "I know I was hurting him with my punches."

Klitschko landed a big right hand 1:45 into the second round that shook Lewis, whose chin had been questioned after being knocked out by Oliver McCall and Hasim Rahman in other title fights.

"He woke me up," Lewis admitted.

Lewis had a vast edge in experience, coming into the fight with 15 wins in 17 title fights. He had been off a year, but seemed to be in his prime at a time when most fighters are in decline.

Klitschko was fighting for a major title for the first time and fighting in the United States for only the second time. Klitschko spent much of his career fighting on cards in Germany with his brother, and his record was littered with a string of unheralded opponents.
AP

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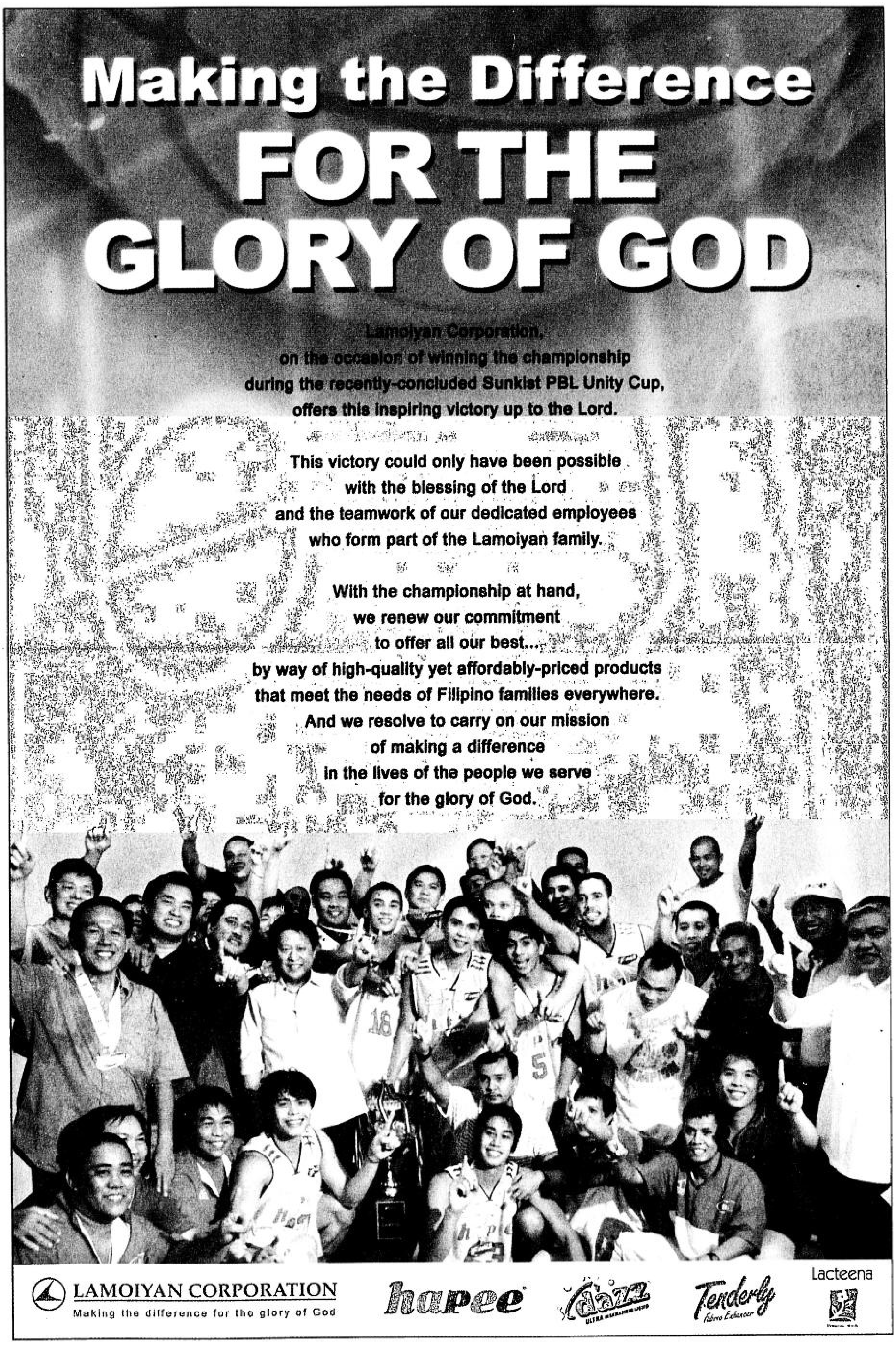

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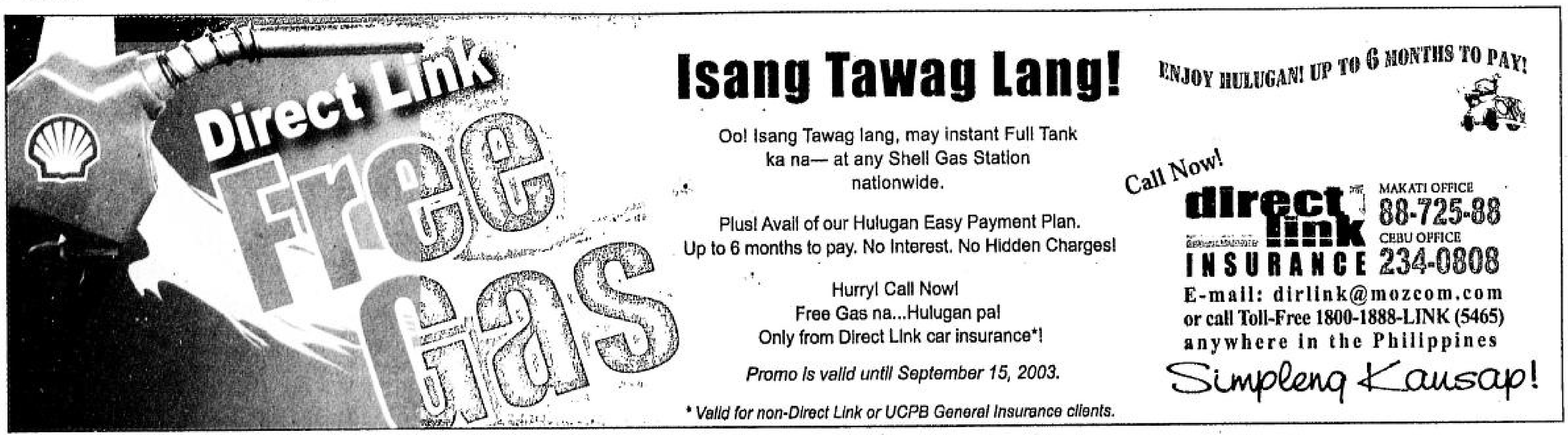

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Vengeful Serena out to erase bitter memories of Paris

LONDON—Serena Williams is confident she can bury the painful memory of her French Open final defeat with a successful defense of her Wimbledon crown.

The younger of the Williams sisters was left in tears after being booed and jeered by the crowd at Roland Garros on her way to a shock defeat at the hands of Belgium's Justine Henin-Hardenne.

But as she practiced here under the watchful gaze of father Richard, Serena said she was too busy working on her service action to dwell on events in Paris.

"I couldn't get my serve right in Paris so that is what I've been working on. "My confidence is high now. I'm always a perfectionist—I want everything to be just right but I feel like I'm ready and I'm in good shape."

Richard Williams was absent from Wimbledon last year following an acrimonious divorce from his former wife, Orecene.

But both parents are expected to be in London supporting their daughters as they attempt to make it through to what could be an all-Williams final.

Current form however suggests Venus will struggle to keep the date. Her fourth round exit at the French Open was her worst performance in eight Grand Slam tournaments.

In the aftermath there has been much speculation that she is growing disenchanted with a tennis career increasingly being played out in the shadow of her younger sister, who has beaten her elder sibling five times in finals at the Grand Slams.

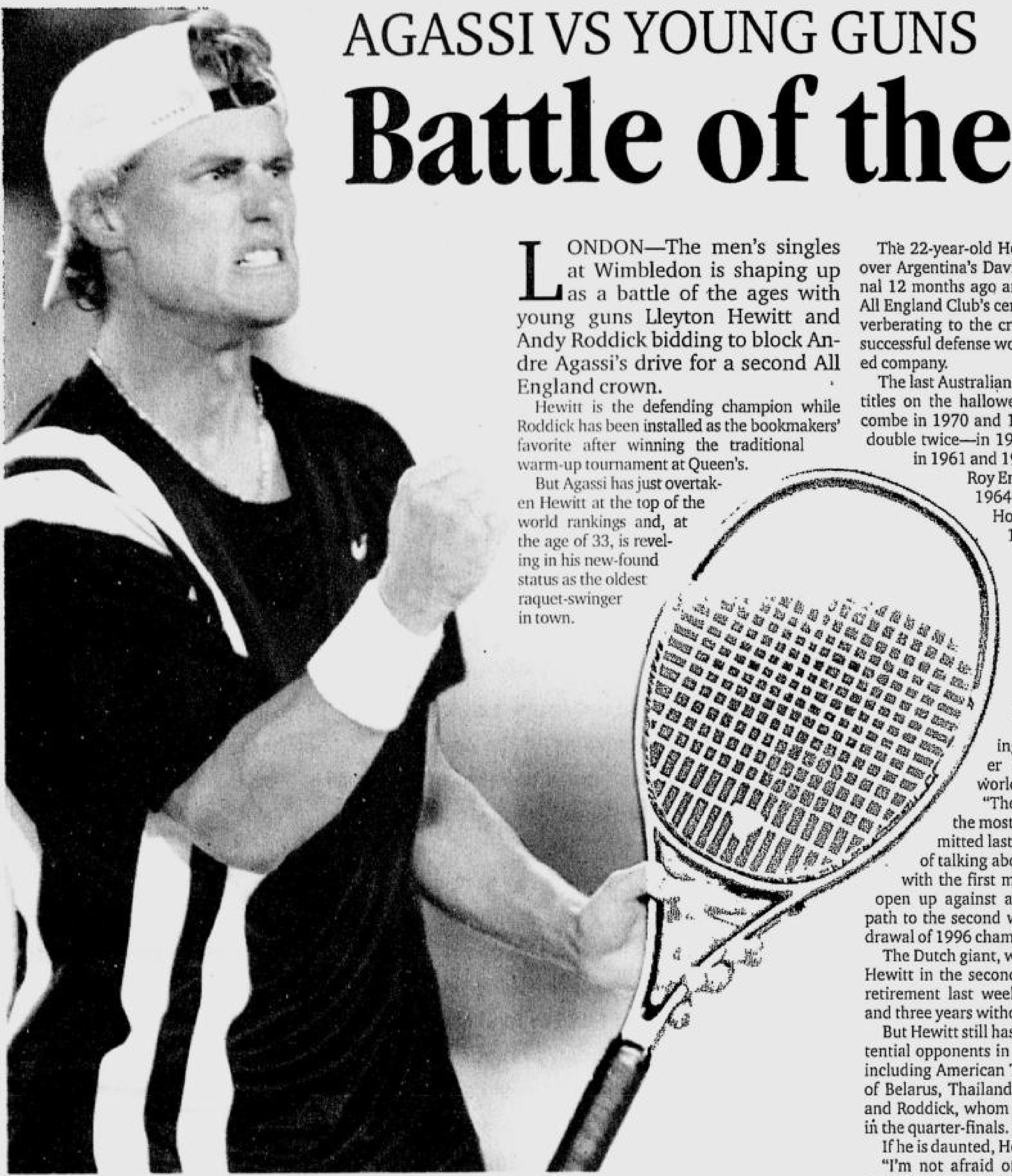
But even if her enthusiasm for playing second fiddle is waning, Venus insisted she had no intention of retiring at the age of 23.

Henin-Hardenne suffered an injury scare at the weekend when she was forced to concede the final of a pre-Wimbledon tournament in the Netherlands to her compatriot Kim Clijsters.

Henin had won the first set on a tiebreak 7-6 (7/4) but trailed 3-0 in the second when she slipped and injured her left hand. *AFP*

AGASSI VS YOUNG GUNS

Battle of the ages set



THERE'S no mistaking top seed Lleyton Hewitt's appetite for a new taste of glory. AP

LONDON—The men's singles at Wimbledon is shaping up as a battle of the ages with young guns Lleyton Hewitt and Andy Roddick bidding to block Andre Agassi's drive for a second All England crown.

Hewitt is the defending champion while Roddick has been installed as the bookmakers' favorite after winning the traditional warm-up tournament at Queen's.

But Agassi has just overtaken Hewitt at the top of the world rankings and, at the age of 33, is reveling in his new-found status as the oldest raquet-swinger in town.

The 22-year-old Hewitt romped to victory over Argentina's David Nalbandian in the final 12 months ago and Monday will see the All England Club's center court once more reverberating to the cries of "c'mon Rocky." A successful defense would put Hewitt in exalted company.

The last Australian to achieve back-to-back titles on the hallowed turf was John Newcombe in 1970 and 1971. Rod Laver did the double twice—in 1968 and 1969 as well as in 1961 and 1962.

Roy Emerson was champion in 1964 and 1965 and Lew Hoad won in 1956 and 1957.

Hewitt has a long way to go before he can match the performance of a less well-remembered star from Down Under, AF Wilding, who won the trophy four years in a row from 1910.

But there is no mistaking his appetite for another taste of glory at the world's biggest tournament.

"The nerves will be flying the most on Monday," Hewitt admitted last week. "You get a bit sick of talking about it and want to get on with the first match." Hewitt, who will open up against a qualifier, has seen his path to the second week eased by the withdrawal of 1996 champion Richard Krajicek.

The Dutch giant, who had been due to face Hewitt in the second round, announced his retirement last week after injury problems and three years without a trophy.

But Hewitt still has plenty of dangerous potential opponents in his quarter of the draw, including American Taylor Dent, Max Mirnyi of Belarus, Thailand's Paradorn Srichaphan, and Roddick, whom he is scheduled to meet in the quarter-finals.

If he is daunted, Hewitt is not admitting it.

"I'm not afraid of being on center-stage and playing big matches," he said. "It is what I've lived for and dreamed of doing. To have won it means there'll be special memories every time I come back." Agassi, like Hewitt, found the slow clay of the French Open a drag as both men failed fully to do themselves justice.

WORLD No.1 Andre Agassi revels in his new status as oldest player in town. AP

But the Las Vegan remains convinced he can complete another chapter of his stellar career at the venue where he broke his Grand Slam duck 11 years ago.

Agassi opens up against British wildcard Jamie Delgado, ranked just 456 in the world and the American star is set to face Belgium's Xavier Malisse in the quarters.

Assuming he makes it that far, Agassi then would have every chance of landing a ninth Grand Slam title.

"Wimbledon has it's own magic . . . it would be incredible to win it again," says the man who let slip he hated grass the first time he showed up in 1987 and suffered a beating from Frenchman Henri Leconte, then known as something of a showman himself at the fabled England courts. *AFP*

Lucky 13 for Pratt: G'parra binge ruined

PHILADELPHIA—Todd Pratt belted a two-run homer in the bottom of the 13th inning to spoil Nomar Garciaparra's six-hit show and rally the Philadelphia Phillies to a 6-5 Interleague win over the Boston Red Sox Saturday.

Pinch-hitter Pratt's blast, served up by reliever Rudy Seanez (0-1), followed David Bell's run-scoring double. Jose Mesa (3-4) notched the victory despite surrendering one run in the 12th and two in the 13th.

Jim Thome homered in the 12th to keep the Phillies alive. It was his second solo shot of the day.

Garciaparra tied a club record with his six safeties, raising his average to .338. Jimmy Piersall (1953), Pete Runnels (1960) and Jerry Remy (1981) also had six-hit games for Boston.

Three times Cy Young Award winner Pedro Martinez, in his third start since coming off the disabled list, went seven innings for the Red Sox, allowing four hits while striking out seven.

In Chicago, the White Sox nearly squandered a 7-0 advantage but hung on to down the Cubs 7-6.

Mark Buehrle (4-10) notched the victory, working 6 1/3 innings and getting the White Sox on the board with a second-inning single, his first major league RBI.

All seven runs were charged to loser Matt Clement (5-7). The Cubs threatened to go ahead in the late innings but were set down for the final time by Billy Koch.

In Los Angeles, Adrian Beltre homered with two men aboard to spark a four-run first inning as the Dodgers beat the Anaheim Angels 4-2. *Reuters*

MONTREAL Expos' Jamey Carroll steals second base as Toronto Blue Jays' Orlando Hudson fails to control the ball during the third inning in Montreal Saturday. AP

Rain halts play; Tiger drops 2 more

HARRISON, New York—Tiger Woods playfully slapped a ball at Shigeki Maruyama's feet and planted himself next to leader Briny Baird on the driving range.

That was as close as the eight-time major champion got to Baird on Saturday in the rain-suspended third round of the Buick Classic.

Winless since late March, Woods had a bogey and six pars in seven holes before play was suspended, leaving him six strokes behind Baird—11 under through six holes on the saturated Westchester Country Club course.

"It's going to be a long day tomorrow," Woods said. "Hopefully, I can play a little better and improve my chances."

Play was suspended for the day at about 3 p.m. after a two-hour delay, the second of the round. The round began on schedule at 8:10 a.m., but was delayed for 1 hour, 16 minutes because of lightning before the leaders teed off.

"We got lucky for two days, but when it started raining today we knew it wouldn't take much to put us out of business," Slugger White, the PGA Tour's tournament director, said as rain pelted the interview tent.

With more rain expected Sunday on the course soaked by eight inches of rain in the last three weeks, the event could finish on a Monday for the second time in three years.

"We've got a good forecast for Monday," White said. "We can go to Tuesday, but we can't go any further than Tuesday. Let's hope we don't get that far."

Baird, the son of Champions Tour player Butch Baird, is trying to win for the first time in four seasons on the PGA Tour. He birdied the par-5 fifth hole to reach 11 under, putting him two strokes ahead of playing partner Skip Kendall. *AP*

Turks seeks revenge vs world champs Brazilians

SAINT-ETIENNE, France—Brazil stopped Turkey at last year's World Cup. Now, Turkey can repay the favor.

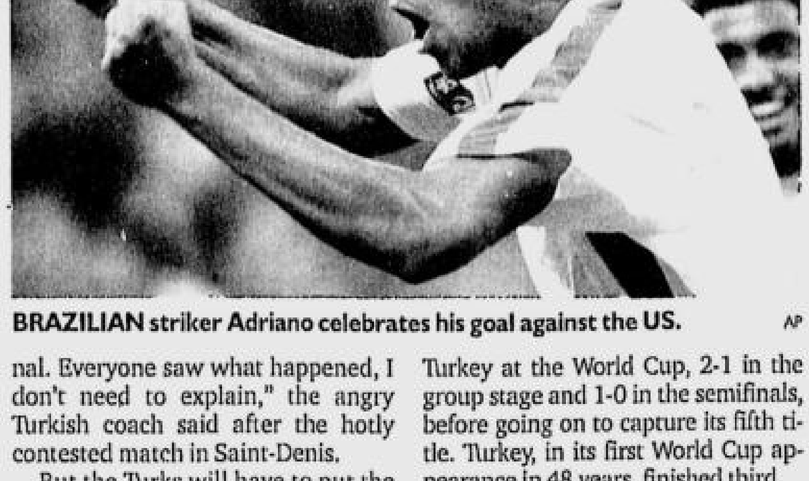
The occasion is not as grand, the lineups are not the same and Turkey's coach Senol Gunes doesn't like to call it revenge, but Turkey can eliminate the five-time World Cup champions from the Confederations Cup.

A draw Monday night in Saint-Etienne will be enough to see the Turks into the semifinals. Brazil must win to advance from Group B.

Both teams lost to Cameroon, the African champion, by the identical score, 1-0. But Turkey beat the United States 2-1, while Brazil won 1-0 against the Americans and the Turks have a better goal difference that will be decisive in a tie-breaker.

The Turks also will be out to prove something after conceding what they see as an unjustified penalty goal in injury time against Cameroon on Saturday, while having one of their own strikes denied.

"I don't want to have to say this on FIFA's fairplay day but someone out there tried to stop us reaching the final. Everyone saw what happened, I don't need to explain," the angry Turkish coach said after the hotly contested match in Saint-Denis.



BRAZILIAN striker Adriano celebrates his goal against the US. AP

But the Turks will have to put the frustration and anger quickly behind them and concentrate on the job ahead. Finding motivation shouldn't be a problem.

Brazil was the only team to beat Turkey at the World Cup, 2-1 in the group stage and 1-0 in the semifinals, before going on to capture its fifth title. Turkey, in its first World Cup appearance in 48 years, finished third.

"We lost twice but they were very close matches. I don't want to call it revenge but it's important for my team to play such big sides," Gunes said.

Solberg leads Cyprus Rally

LIMASSOL, Cyprus—Cyprus Rally leader and Subaru driver Petter Solberg increased his lead to nearly 50 seconds over nearest rival Harri Rovanpera of Finland in a Peugeot on specials 13 to 15, edging further ahead on each.

Only engine failure or a crash looked likely to prevent Solberg from clinching his second world championship win after several big guns were forced to retire on Saturday.

World championship leader Richard Burns dropped out on the 10th stage with engine failure while, earlier, overnight leader Marcus Gronholm bowed out after damaging his propshaft.

Solberg won all three early stages, deftly avoiding the boulders that line the road on the Macheras 14th special on gravel, as he increased his lead by more than eight seconds on Rovanpera before putting another 10.4 seconds between them on the 15th.

The Finn pulled further away from third-placed Sebastien Loeb, one of three Citroen drivers to occupy the next three places.

Briton Colin McRae was still fourth, four minutes and 20 seconds adrift. *Reuters*

Pagcor should stop more casino operations

CLEAN LIVING

Manolo R. Iñigo

THE STRONG opposition to the opening of a new casino in Boracay reminds me of former Manila Mayor Mel Lopez, who once ordered the closure of two casinos in Manila in 1990 which were violating city zoning regulations for being located near schools, churches and hospitals.

Because of his action, the Philippine Amusement and Gaming Corp. and the Anti-Graft League of the Philippines filed criminal charges on Feb. 27, 1990 against Lopez. The casinos closed were located at the Silahis Hotel (now Grand Boulevard Hotel) on Roxas Boulevard and at the Holiday Inn on United Nations Avenue. The case took 12 long and agonizing years to finish.

On June 14, 2002, the Sandiganbayan dismissed the graft suit against Lopez, saying the prosecutors failed to submit the findings of the reinvestigation of the case, citing the Constitutional prohibition against unreasonable delay.

"The graft charge was a big nuisance for me and my family," Lopez said after the dismissal of the case, adding that, among other physical and mental inconveniences, he had to get a court clearance every time he traveled abroad, which was often, because aside from being a city mayor, he was a much-respected businessman and a high ranking Olympic boxing official. By the way, Lopez spent his own money in all those foreign trips.

There is now widespread opposition to the opening of a new casino in Boracay. Just the other day, Boracay parish priest Fr. Isauro David of the Holy Rosary Parish said the opening of the casino (at the Club Panoly) will have a negative effect on Boracay residents and not on Tourism secretary Richard Gordon (who is pushing for the opening of the casino in the island resort) and the other supporters of the casino. The locals have also staged protest rallies against the proposed casino. Even President Macapagal-Arroyo had said she would not allow Pagcor to put up more casinos. She said existing casinos are there only because they are allowed by law.

Is Pagcor chair Efraim Genuino listening?

***

OLYMPIC Milestone. On June 23, 1894, a young Frenchman, 29-year-old Baron Pierre de Coubertin, proposed the revival of the ancient Olympic Games before a gathering of the world's leading sports authorities at the Grand Hall of the Sorbonne in Paris. Two years later, on April 6, 1896 to be exact, 60,000 people witnessed 311 athletes from 13 nations take part in the first successful revival of the modern Olympics at the stadium in Athens. Spiridion Louis, a Greek shepherd, won the marathon to become the most celebrated athlete of the Games.

Coubertin's dream of creating the world's greatest sporting event—a truly international spectacle that would travel among the capitals of the world every four years—has been realized. During the last century, the Olympic movement has succeeded in many ways beyond Coubertin's dream. The modern Games survived the traumas of two World Wars, the horrors of terrorism, political boycott and economic difficulties, not to mention mismanagement and over-commercialization, that threatened its very existence. Today, the Olympic Movement is stronger and healthier than ever.

To mark that 109th anniversary today, the Philippine Olympic Committee will launch the book, "The Olympic Movement in the Philippines," written by POC president Celso Dayrit, followed by the presentation of Olympism Awards to individuals and organizations starting 6 p.m. at the Coconut Palace, CCP Complex.

SEARCH FOR TALL CAGERS

6-footers tilt goes to south

By Roy Luarca

TALL, young players from Visayas and Mindanao get their chance to make the national pool when the Bert Lina Six-Feet and Above basketball tournament goes to Cebu City next month and Davao City in August.

Qualified to join the five teams being formed for Visayas and another five teams from Mindanao are players who are 18 years and under and are at least six feet tall.

To be represented in the Visayas edition of the tournament conceptualized by Air 21 and FedEx chairperson Bert Lina are Bacolod, Iloilo, Bohol and Cebu, which will have two teams.

The Mindanao tourney will have teams from the cities of General Santos, Cagayan de Oro, Zamboanga and Davao, which will also be represented by two teams.

The Visayas leg is slated to be held in the final week of July while the Mindanao leg is set for the second week of August.

These tournaments are an off-shoot of the highly successful 1st Bert Lina Six Feet and Above event held at various schools in Metro Manila in February.

The National Pool A-Talk N' Text of coach Johnny Tam topped the inaugural edition, which drew six squads supported by PBA teams.

"We know that there are a lot of tall players out there who are just waiting to be discovered. Many of them can't come to Manila, so we are coming to them," said Lina, vice president for Luzon of the Basketball Association of the Philippines.

Promising players in the two tournaments would be included in the 18-man national youth training pool being prepared for international competitions by the BAP, according to Lina.

Tam said already included in the national pool are 6-foot-7 Peter Aguilar Jr., 6-6 Jason Olivarez, 6-5 Michael Galinato, 6-5 Mike Baldos, 6-4 Kevin Astorga, 6-1 Daryl Bautista and 6-1 Albert Regala.

Taguig halts MayniLA run; Bulacan notches 1st win

GAMES TOMORROW
2 p.m.—Pampanga vs Bacolod
4 p.m.—MayniLA vs Spring

FORWARD-Taguig ended MayniLA's winning run, while Bulacan's Spring Cooking Oil finally scored its first victory at the expense of Air Philippines-Bacolod Saturday night in the National Basketball League national championship at the CEU Centrodome in Malolos, Bulacan.

Robin Mendoza starred in a scorching 11-3 run in the last two minutes as Taguig registered a 91-83 win over MayniLA which saw its victory run halted at four games.

On the other hand, the Cooking Oil Masters lost a 16-point lead, but recovered in the last 2:15 behind Marphyl Limbo and Tyrone Bautista to subdue Bacolod, 84-71.

With its first loss in five games, MayniLA skidded into a first-place tie with idle M. Lhuillier Kwarta Padala of Cebu. Taguig rose to 3-2, to match Pampanga.

Spring was comfortably ahead, 68-52, early in the fourth period when Ricky Ricafuente sparked a torrid AirPhil comeback that cut the lead to 69-70. Limbo and Bautista quickly doused the fire, however.

Limbo and Mendoza were named game MVPs in the tourney supported by Tanduay Rhum, Air Philippines, Cebu Ferries, Nature's Spring Drinking Water, Supercar, Panasonic, BJ Star Logistics, Gatorade, Sinners and Saints, The Freeman, Jaguar KTV and Molten Basketballs.

Scores:

First game:

TAGUIG 91—Mendoza 28, Robillos 17, Dals 13, Sta. Maria 11, Roldan 7, Nuqui 6, Quimpo 5, Macanig 4, Bernardino 0.

MAYNILA 83—Epondulan 20, Serrano 19, Sanz 13, Rivera 10, Yap 5, Finullar 5, Mallari 3, E. Garcia 2, Buendia 2, Gumatay 2, Corbin 2, Alabanza 0.

Second game:

SPRING 84—Limbo 20, T. Bautista 19, De Jesus 12, Lapinid 8, M. Reyes 7, Sese 5, Tanpua 5, Menor 4, Habelito 2, Manuel 2, Primero 0.

AIRPHIL 71—Ricafuente 22, De Guia 10, Aquino 9, Mendiola 6, Bravo 5, Pingol 4, Alforque 3, Pua 3, Du 3, Pile 2, Espiritu 2, Go 2.

Briones, Bitanga Slasher champs

A TABLOID executive made an auspicious debut in the World Slasher 8-Cock Derby early Saturday morning by tallying seven big points at the Araneta Coliseum.

"I was just lucky," said Rey Briones shortly after his Islander RB battle birds copped the championship.

Briones shared the spotlight with Golden Circle I of veteran campaigner Matt Bitanga, who fielded aggressive roosters from his game farm in Palawan.

The two champions received the imposing silver cup made in Italy during a dinner tendered Sunday night by Big Dome owner Jorge "Nene" Araneta, co-hosts of the international derby with Jun Santiago and Ito Ynares.

Named last month by the Pasay City Cockpit as its "Cocker of the Year," Briones started his love for the sport only last year. He is, in his own words, a "marginal" cocker-breeder, raising fighting cocks in a modest farm in Bacolod. His handler is Rene Advincula, youngest brother of the late Rudy Advincula, who once handled fighting cocks for Nene Araneta.

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SPORTS TV
Compiled by L. Manguiat

TENNIS: Wimbledon Preview; 8:30 a.m. and 12:30 p.m. (r); Day One; 7 p.m.; Star Sports—The world's best tennis players gather in England as the 2003 Wimbledon Tournament begins.

BOXING: Lewis vs Klitschko; 7 p.m. (r); IBC 13—Catch the replay of the titanic clash between WBC heavyweight champion Lennox Lewis and top contender Vitali Klitschko of Ukraine.

Schedules subject to change without prior notice.

MANILA
8,623
MARATHON
161
MARATHON

ALSO sharing the limelight in yesterday's Manila Marathon were Reymundo San Juan (left), the oldest entry at 89, and Lilliana Garcia, the youngest at 2 years and 6 months.

ERIK ARAZAS.

MANILA MARATHON

Ballester, Cachero post easy victories

By Dennis U. Eroa

JUST in case something unfortunate hit them, Allan Ballester and Flordeliza Cachero neatly inserted crisp one-hundred peso bills in their respective running shoes before the start of the Manila Marathon yesterday at the Quirino Grandstand.

As it turned out, everything went fine for Ballester and Cachero and the bills remained intact as they breezed to victory in the men's and women's divisions of the inaugural event which drew people from all walks of life on a beautiful, refreshing Sunday morning.

Ballester, a two-time Milo Marathon champion and veteran of the 1997 Jakarta and 2002 Kuala Lumpur SEA Games, clocked two hours 30 minutes 17 seconds as he routed fellow Navyman and second placer Crisanto Canillo, who timed 2:39.43.

Ballester's winning time was seven minutes slower than his personal best of 2:23 he set in ruling the 2001 National Milo Marathon and said his poor clocking was due to the dizzying course and lack of preparation.

"I hardly trained for this event because this was so sudden. My coach Mario (Castro) told me to treat this as a practice in the build-up for the SEA Games. I wasn't in my best form yet and I run this as a 36-km run," said the 29-year-old Ballester.

Ballester also said that the rains made the road slippery.

"But this is a good result for me and I hope to be able to formalize my entry to the national team in the Vietnam SEA Games with this win,' he said, adding he will skip the coming Milo Marathon due to its proximity.'

The victory was worth P75,000 for Ballester, not bad for what amounted to be a weekend "stroll" following the last-minute withdrawal of his chief rival Roy Vence, the reigning SEA Games marathon champion.

Vence, INQUIRER sources said, has decided to try his luck in the Milo Marathon set on October.

Canillo, two-time winner of the Pasig River Marathon, settled for the P50,000 purse.

Like Cachero, Ballester said he tucked some money in his shoes so that he can buy food in case he suddenly got hungry or use it as taxi fare in case of an injury.

"I'm very thankful to the organizers particularly Manila Mayor Lito Atienza," said Ballester.

Cachero, a 4-foot-8 speedster from Baguio City, was the runaway winner in the distaff side in 3:02.00. While she complained of the lack of water stations, Cachero was all smiles as she breasted the tape while her supporters applauded.

"I'm lucky to have friends who gave me water along the route because there were few water stations most of the way. The route was very unfamiliar," Cachero, an education graduate from St. Louis University, said.

Cachero pocketed P50,000. She was already resting when second placer Mary Mina came in with a time of 3:28.04.

Daisy Castillo salvaged third spot in 4:07.26.

Bukidnon's Roger Sawin-ay finished third in the men's division in 2:24.44 while Modesto Madalang took fourth in 2:51.05. Sabino Cometa copped fifth in 2:52.14.

Ratertas rule Naga City elims

NAGA CITY—Tabaco natives Rene and Luisa Raterta shared the limelight by topping the 27th National Milo Marathon inaugural regional race here yesterday.

Rene ruled the men's division, scoring his first regional victory after seven tries. He clocked 1:12.42 in the 20K event and won the P10,000 top prize.

On the other hand, Luisa prevailed anew in the women's category (1:31.09) and bagged the same amount.

Sorsogon's Marvin Javier was second in the men's side with a time of 1:13.05, while Alvin Canada of Camarines Norte was third in 1:13.45.

Joanne Manangat of Masbate took runnerup spot (1:48.32) in the ladies' side, while Joy Pardinas was third (1:50.42).

All top three finishers thus qualified to the national finals.

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Greene pulls through; Washington is fastest

PALO ALTO, California—Maurice Greene eased through his 200 meters preliminary and world indoor champion Tyree Washington ran the fastest 400 in two years, at a windswept US championships on Saturday.

Greene clocked 21.10 seconds into a strong headwind of 5.3 metres per second (mps) to finish second in his race and 10th out of the 16 qualifiers for Sunday's semi-finals. But he expressed no concern.

"I only know one thing," he told reporters. "I'm going to win."

The race was Greene's first at the four-day meeting, which serves as the US trials for the world championships in Paris in August. He received a bye in the 100 metres as the world champion and opted to run only the 200 here.

"I felt the wind and decided not to push it," Greene said.

Washington pushed hard out of the curve to win the 400 meters in 44.33 seconds and become the world championship favorite.

"He ran the perfect race," said his coach, 1991 world champion Antonio Pettigrew. "I told him I didn't see he did anything wrong."

This year represents a comeback for Washington, who took nearly 18 months off in 2001-02 because of injuries and the stress of his sister's murder trial and conviction.

Washington's sister and her boyfriend were sentenced to 25 years to life in prison after being convicted of suffocating one of her children.

Calvin Harrison (44.62 seconds) and Jerome Young (44.79) joined Washington in the world championship team.

The top three finishers in each final will travel to Paris provided they have met the qualifying standards.

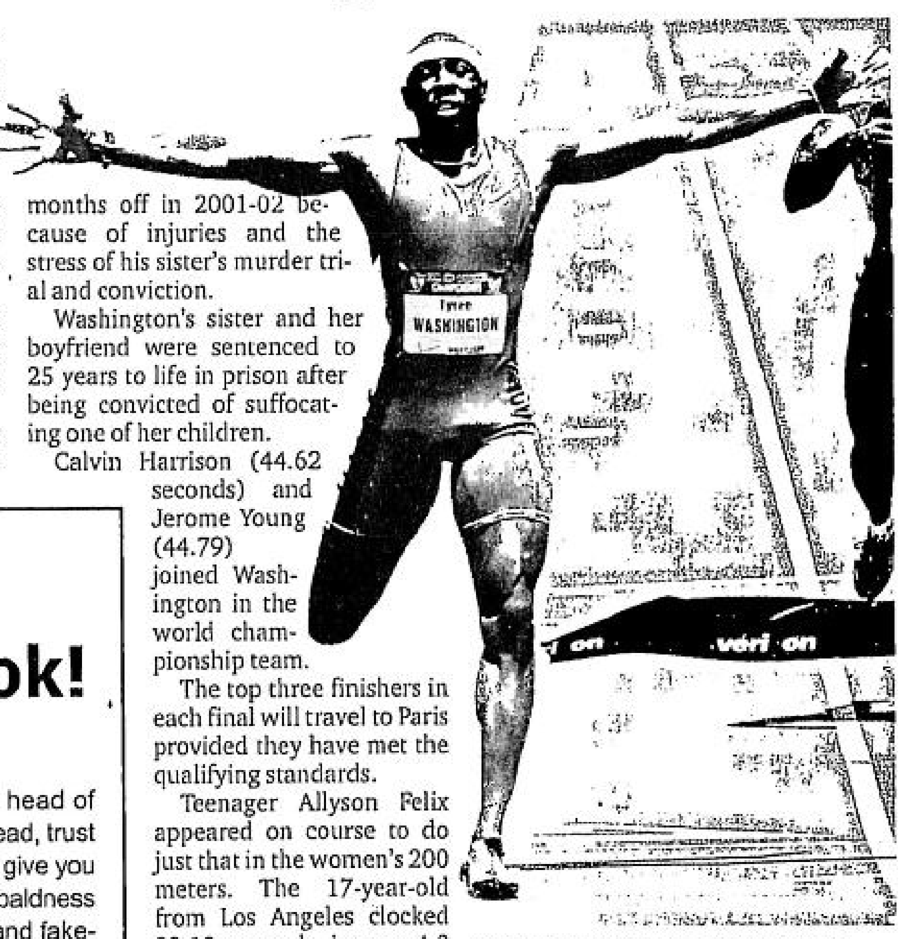
Teenager Allyson Felix appeared on course to do just that in the women's 200 meters. The 17-year-old from Los Angeles clocked 23.19 seconds into a 4.8 mps headwind to lead Saturday's qualifying.

Two other world indoor champions joined Washington in winning their event.

World indoor 1,500 meters record holder Regina Jacobs ran the fastest outdoor time of the year (4:01.63) and Allen Johnson, the 1996 Olympic champion, won the men's 110 meters hurdles in 13.37 seconds after a photo finish with training partner Terrence Trammell.

World record holder Stacy Dragila triumphed in the women's pole vault at 4.50 meters, well adrift of her world record of 4.81.

The ageless Gail Devers, 36, already in the American team in the 100 meters, led qualifying in the women's 100 meters hurdles after clocking 13.00 seconds into a strong headwind. *Reuters*



WASHINGTON spreads his arms in victory.

AP

Likely a boy for Tim, Marion

PALO ALTO, California—The latest addition to the Marion Jones-Tim Montgomery household is likely to be a boy.

The gender of the "world's fastest" couples baby had been a well-kept secret until Montgomery let slip the possibility that it was a boy at the American Athletics Championships.

Montgomery's girlfriend and triple Sydney Olympic gold medallist Jones is eight months pregnant.

Jones' due date is July 21. *AFP*

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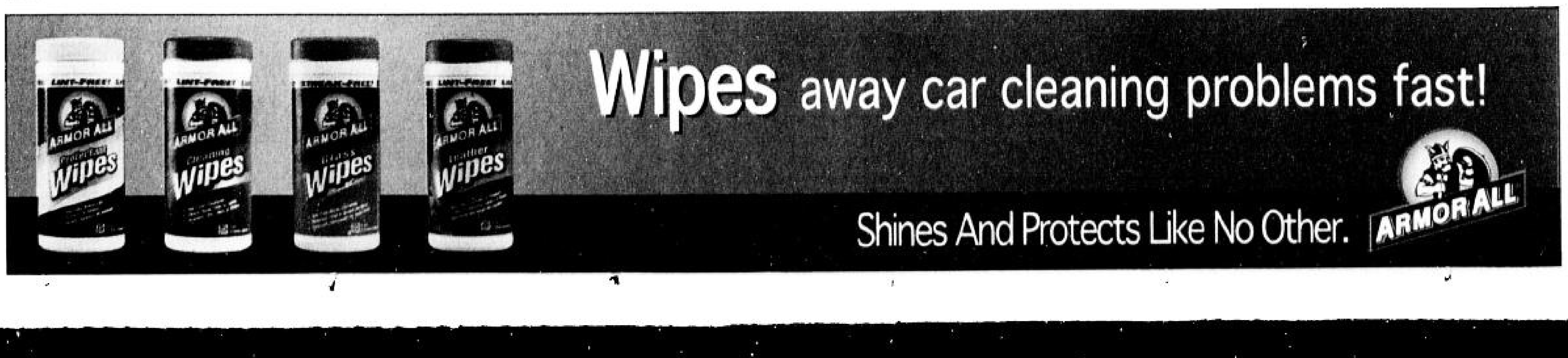
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Gov't uncovers new fake tax credit scam

By Doris C. Dumlao

THE GOVERNMENT is tracking down another big-time syndicate selling fake tax credit certificates (TCCs) to legitimate corporations after the One-Stop-Shop Tax Credit and Duty Drawback Center (OSS Center) under the Department of Finance foiled a fraudulent transaction worth P82.83 million.

In an interview on Friday, OSS Center executive director Ernesto Hiansen said another group--which may or may not be associated with the syndicate busted last week in cooperation with the National Bureau of Investigation--recently attempted to sell four fake TCCs to corporations.

Like in the previous case, Hiansen said the corporations verified the authenticity of the TCCs being sold to them at the OSS Center, leading to the discovery of the fake documents.

While no arrest has yet been made, Hiansen said the NBI was now trailing the suspects involved in this new attempt. The identity of the culprits would be announced once they have been apprehended, he said.

"We would like to strike fear in these people that they will be caught. There's no way that they can get away with it," Hiansen said.

It was not yet known whether the syndicates, which were undermining the integrity of the tax credit system, were working as separate groups or part of a single, bigtime operator.

Investigations are ongoing and the recent layers of cheating being uncovered to date are seen as only the tip of the iceberg, Hiansen said.

"We are not holding back our punches," Hiansen said, noting that even government officials would not be spared from the investigations.

In scams discovered in the past, for instance, there was a former finance undersecretary who was included in the criminal charges.

The OSS Center is the office that accepts and processes applications for tax credits of qualified exporters. It was at the OSS Center where the first tax credit scam occurred during the period 1995 to 1998 when the government lost close to P5.2 billion as the office fraudulently issued TCCs to non-qualified entities who used fake import and export documents to avail themselves of these fiscal incentives.

But since the OSS Center tightened the procedures on the processing of TCC applications after a sweeping reorganization, Hiansen said the syndicates were finding more creative ways to

GOV'T/B2

INDICATORS

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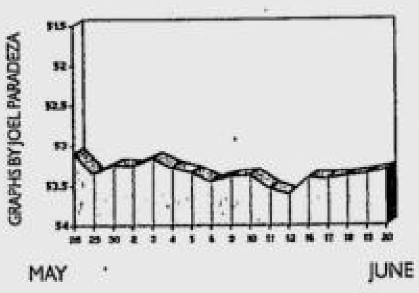

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As of 5 p.m., June 20, 2003

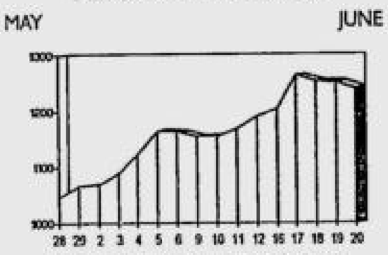
GOLD: $361.50-362.00

per ounce Hong Kong, June 20, 2003

STOCK MARKET

Stocks seen to rise

PSE COMPOSITE INDEX



(See stock market report on Page B6)

STOCKS are expected to be volatile this week with some further correction, but prices are likely to end up as the second quarter comes to a close, analysts said.

The main index closed last week up by 49.62 points or 4.17 percent week-on- week to 1,240.68.

BPI Securities, through its online trading platform BPI Trade, pointed out that profit taking might continue given the strong market surge in the last two weeks.

However, the stock brokerage house said it still expected bargain hunting as share prices correct.

"Investors are likely to take advantage of market corrections as an opportunity to accumulate at lower levels," BPI Securities said.

Based on technical analysis, the securities firm said the market was still due for a correction since it remained overbought with support at 1,236 and resistance at 1,278.

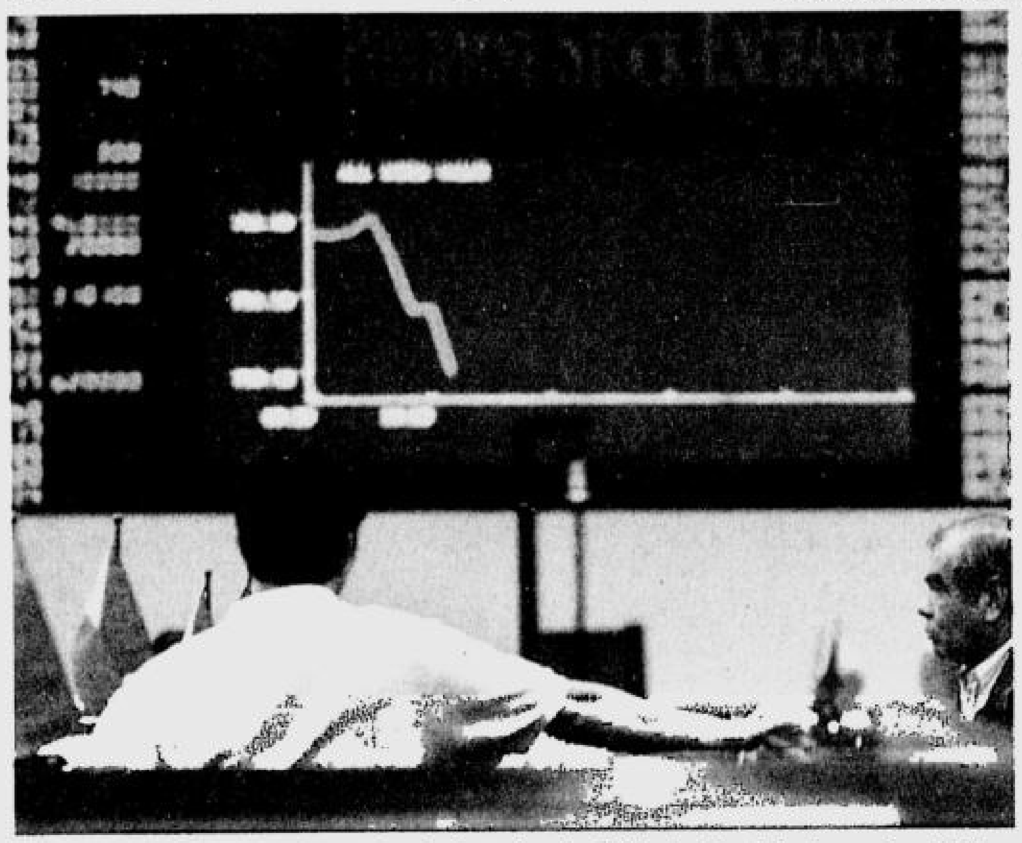
Economic analyst Jovis Vistan of AB Capital noted positive sentiments and quarter-ending window dressing as helping the market sustain its winning ways this week.

He added that there would be a positive impact of another US Fed rate cut expected this week. Vistan predicted the Fed would cut its benchmark rate by 25 basis points as recent economic data from the US seemed to suggest that the world's biggest economy was not in a bad shape as earlier feared.

The analyst noted that a cut in the US rate should boost the chances for a similar move on the part of the Bangko Sentral ng Pilipinas, which lowered its average inflation rate target this year to just 3 percent from the initial target of 4.5-5.5 percent.

"A low inflation outlook, an improving fiscal situation and further

STOCKS/B6



TRADERS look at a giant electronic price board at the Philippine Stock Exchange floor Friday. Philippine share prices closed down 0.89 percent, or 11.13 points, to finish at 1,240.68 following the overnight downturn on Wall Street and continued profit-taking after the index hit 12-month highs last week.

AFP

DOE to bid out oil-drilling areas

By Ronnel W. Domingo

THE DEPARTMENT of Energy said it would offer for public bidding 46 new exploration blocks close to oil and gas discoveries and producing fields.

Highly prospective areas in Northwest Palawan and vast frontier areas in Southwest and East Palawan, Sulu Sea and Reed Bank would be included in the bidding. .

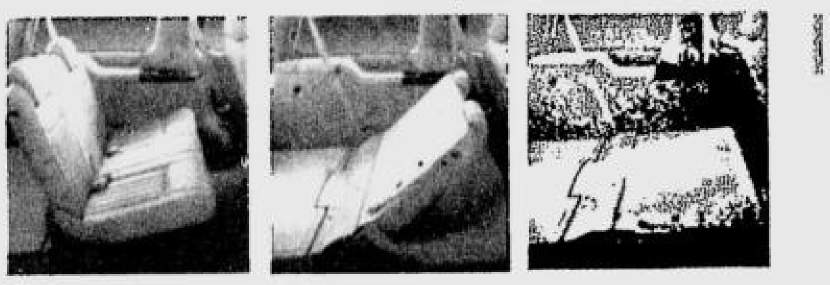
The DOE said its First Philippines Petroleum Public Contracting Round or PCR-1—which would be launched on Aug. 5—was a new way of awarding concessions in oil and gas exploration through competitive public bidding.

PCR-1 replaces the licensing procedure that was based on a first-come first-served basis, which barred any other participant from applying for exploration rights in the same area.

"(We want) to build on the technical and commercial successes of the deep-water Malampaya gas project off Palawan, which demonstrates that giant petroleum reserves could be found in the country," Energy Secre-

DOE/B2

This spacious.



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BIR uncovers rampant tax violations in shopping malls

By Michelle V. Remo

THE BUREAU of Internal Revenue has uncovered rampant tax violations in three of the well-known malls in Mandaluyong, apprehending 556 erring establishments from the 729 visited during a tax mapping operation conducted by BIR personnel last Thursday.

The BIR reported that majority or 76.3 percent of business establishments situated in Megamall, the Podium and Star Mall (former Manuela) were found to have committed violations of BIR rules in doing business. Most common violations were non-issuance of receipts, use of unregistered cash register machines and failure to keep proper books of accounts.

Some of the more popular establishments caught with violations by the BIR were Kamiseta, Bio Research, A1 Driving Co., Linea Italia, The Leather Collection, New Radio City, Sari-Sari Store, Anonymous, Tulip Flower Shop, Beauty Bar and Store Specialist.

The BIR district office of Mandaluyong said it had also discovered over a hundred establishments that operate without business registrations, which is considered a major offense. It said Sari-Sari Store, Oceanic Escolta Gifts and Jewelries, Store Specialist, The Leather Collection, New Radio City and Anonymous, all located in Megamall, failed to present certificates of registration that should prove the legality of their operations.

"Some of the establishments we apprehended have already paid the necessary fines, while still a number of them said they would appeal the charges against them," said BIR Mandaluyong Revenue District Officer Isidro Casals in an interview. Sari-Sari Store in Megamall, for its part, denied it was operating without a certificate of registration, and claimed its certificate was just not kept by the branch but by the head office, according to a BIR staff.

Casals called on business establishments in his area that have not yet been visited by his office to start rectifying their operations to avoid penalties. He said the tax mapping drive last week was just part of the district office's initial operations, and more tax mapping drives would follow.

Since April, the BIR has been conducting tax mapping operations, in which BIR personnel were fielded to check on the tax compliance of business establishments. After more than two months since the program was started, the BIR has discovered a high rate of violations among the business establishments it visited. The revenue agency said it had already checked about 23,000 establishments, and that about 90 percent of these were found to have committed violations.

Tax issue on swap deals cleared

By Elena R. Torrijos

AFTER two years of discussions with banks, the Bureau of Internal Revenue has agreed to exempt proposed swap transactions—designed to increase banks' access to liquidity—from the final withholding tax and documentary stamps tax.

In an interview last week, Bankers Association of the Philippines executive director Leonilo Coronel said the BIR has informed the group of commercial banks that it would soon issue a revenue memorandum circular (RMC) on the tax treatment of "cash-settled securities swap transactions."

The RMC would consider CSSTs as outright sale/purchase of securities rather than as a deposit substitute that should be subject to final withholding tax and DST.

The BIR ruling is seen to pave the way for the implementation of a memorandum of agreement with the Bangko Sentral ng Pilipinas and the Bureau of Treasury that would provide a more structured system for CSSTs, transactions among financial institutions and between such financial institutions and the BSP.

CSSTs are technically agreements between financial institutions to simultaneously buy and sell "equivalent" government securities spot at a predetermined future date and price with the same counter-party.

The main customer base of the CSST product is the interbank market, which consists of banks and quasi-banks that trade in government securities.

The MOA spells out the conventions that will cover CSSTs. The conventions—which cover documentation, exchange of information, pricing and confirmation—are aimed at establishing convenience to all market participants.

Earlier, the BAP noted that there were "many government swap transactions, both spot and forward, among BAP member banks and financial institutions which are not uniformly structured and settled and, therefore, could be subject to various risks for the transacting parties."

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Premiums Retained	Php1,075,893,211
Net Underwriting Income	Php 371,407,324
Net Income After Tax	Php 109,572,288
Total Assets	Php1,751,632,255
Total Liabilities	Php 864,742,065
Total Stockholders' Equity	Php 886,890,190
Paid Up Capital Stock	Php 500,000,000
Reserve for Unearned Premiums	Php 430,309,832
Claims Payable	Php 9,095,068
Due to Reinsurers	Php 4,200,900

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Bad taste in the math

BREAKTIME

Conrado R. Banal III

IS he or isn't he? It is of course a tricky question. The time-honored way to answer any tricky question is this: It depends. A variation to that is, it all depends.

Will San Miguel chair and CEO Eduardo "Danding" Cojuangco Jr. run for President in 2004, or will he not?

Actually, it all depends on a number of factors, such as whether or not everybody can please just leave the man alone to decide for himself.

We get a lot of slipshod public statements and careless private whispers from just about anybody who claims to be working for Danding's presidential campaign.

But the truth is, if you listen to the people close to him, or those who are not only after some campaign funds, the word is that the man has yet to make up his mind.

* * *

SURELY they are talking in business about 2004. Danding's decision, whether it's a go or not for him, must figure well in their minds.

I heard that even Washington Sycip, one of the founders of the country's biggest auditing firm SGV, is telling people that he is organizing a group for Danding.

If that is true, the whispers in business for Danding's candidacy are not just empty talk. Like in the political arena, in business such a speculation may turn into a clamor.

Everybody knows San Miguel's track record under Danding. The company was close to a loan default when he took over in 1998 during the Asian meltdown.

Today, not only did San Miguel survive the crisis, it even thrived. San Miguel is the only manufacturing business here that's expanding. Aggressively. Even overseas.

* * *

AND SO a real estate tycoon tells me over Chinese lunch buffet at the Mandarin Hotel that he also has a friend who is forming a group for Danding.

Less than a year to the next presidential election, some politicos are said to be organizing their own groups for Danding maybe even without his consent.

In return for what, we already know. And that is actually one of the problems of Danding. His volunteers seem to know much more about his plans than he does.

His nephew, Tarlac Rep. Gilberto Teodoro, probably said it most brutally: "The only person who can make an announcement on whether he is running or not is himself."

If only somebody in this cute administration of Gloriaetta, who herself may still run, but then again, she may not, can say the same thing firmly for her …

* * *

YOU see, the guessing game on Danding's plan, supposedly, starts off with the same guessing game about Gloriaetta's.

And so it's the same tricky question for her. Will she or will she not? It also all depends. For instance, is she now up to eating her own words?

Only a few months ago, if you still remember, Gloriaetta said she would not run. Today her political allies have no recollection of whether or not she said those words.

And so reports said that Danding already struck a deal with Gloriaetta for 2004. If she runs, he will not. He will only run if she does not.

The reports do not even consider an important question in any political plan. And that is, can either Gloriaetta or Danding, in fact, win? Don't tell me "it depends."

* * *

ALRIGHT, it is possible that Danding's candidacy hinges on what Gloriaetta eventually decides herself. But why not?

For if Gloriaetta is already doing a good job, why will anybody want her to keep her word and refuse to run? We only risk getting another dimwit in office.

But something in the equation leaves a bad taste in the math. We actually have a President of the Republic who says one thing, and then does another.

The premise on Danding's plan—that it depends on Gloriaetta's plan—assumes that even the Danding camp does not believe Gloriaetta when she said she would not run.

In other words, eveh the Danding camp thinks she may still run, even if she already said she is not running, and so for Danding, it all depends.

Now, do I take it that nobody is taking Gloriaetta's word at face value? In other words, nobody believes our President, is that it?

* * *

AND SO it's true. That Australian garbage company, the famous Jancom, has a new champion in Parañaque Mayor Joey Marquez.

By the way, Joey is said to be looking forward to the Senate in 2004. Why?

Hissoner, anyway, according to reports, is endorsing Jancom to do the landfill garbage disposal project in Gapan, Nueva Ecija.

Now that is not part of Jancom's supposed contract, which the Supreme Court declared as "valid," although Gloriaetta does not want to sign it.

Earlier rumors went around that, to skirt the need for Gloriaetta's signature on its contract, Jancom was tapping a Metro Manila mayor.

It could be Jancom's way to exercise its, er, "valid" contract—through a mayor.

It turns out to be a comedian.

* * *

ANYWAY, from what I gathered, an influential group is also funding a move to amend the Clean Air Act.

That is the law which bans incinerators in this country, which is what Jancom's "valid" contract was all about.

The amendment lobby is timely. Next year is an election year. Jancom has a good opening here.

Congressmen are not exactly famous for doing things for free.

That's why environmental groups are looking out for any move in Congress to lift the ban on incinerator. Remember, *bossing*, you are being watched.

* * *

AIG and ING are giant foreign insurance companies which are operating here. Knowingly or unknowingly, they are contributing to any weakness of the peso.

Those two have a new life insurance product for the so-called high networth individuals. In short, the rich!

To get the life insurance, you don't even have to pay the premium. You only have to deposit some money with them. The deposit only has be denominated in dollars.

Oh, by the way, to keep the insurance "valid," you have to keep the dollars with them for a long time.

That means that, for the next several years, some rich guys will have to keep their money in dollars, instead of pesos, which is a good way to weaken the peso, right, Paeng?

DOE to bid out oil-drilling areas

From page B1

tary Vincent Perez Jr. said in a statement.

Perez said the Malampaya example, bundled with "one of the most liberal fiscal terms in the world" plus a more investor-friendly contracting process, should attract both local and foreign investors.

The official said the areas to be opened for licensing covered a total of 215,000 square kilometers that were believed to have the highest potential in bearing large oil and gas reserves in the country.

He said experts noted that the prospects that could be present in the areas to be bid out were comparable to the giant production fields in Brunei, Sabah (Malaysia), Indonesia, Vietnam and South China.

Perez said major oil exploration and production companies in Asia, North America, Europe and the former Soviet Union were invited to the launch of the program.

In May, the DOE announced that Forum Exploration had started drilling the first of three exploratory wells under Service Contract No. 40, which covers the northern half of Cebu and part of the Visayan Sea to the west.

The agency noted that this was the first drilling activity for the year amid efforts of the department to reorganize its petroleum development program to attract local and foreign investors.

Gov't uncovers new fake tax …

From page B1

continuously cheat the government. While the perpetrators used fake documents to apply for the TCCs in the past, he noted that the syndicates were now faking the TCC or end-product itself.

From an average annual release of P11.92 billion worth of TCCs between 1995 and 1998, the release has slowed down to about P2.85 billion each year from 1998 to 2002.

Finance Secretary Jose Isidro Camacho, in a statement, encouraged corporations to report to the DOF the sale of fake TCCs or verify first with the OSS Center the authenticity of the TCCs they intend to buy.

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RP remains in FATF's list of uncooperative countries

By Doris C. Dumlao

EVEN as it has yet to be stricken off the list of uncooperative countries by the Paris-based Financial Action Task Force (FATF) on money laundering, the Philippines has launched a fresh attempt to join the exclusive Egmont group of financial intelligence units.

Bangko Sentral ng Pilipinas Governor Rafael Buenaventura said that with the recent amendments passed by Congress to give teeth to the country's anti-money laundering efforts, he was confident that the Philippines would be accepted by the London-based club

RP/B5

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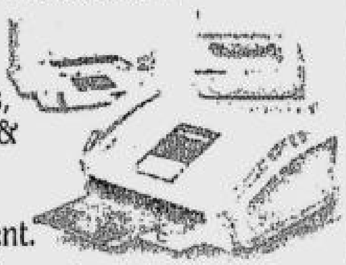

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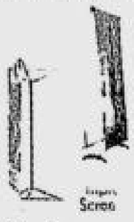

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Lopez firm seeks extension of debt payment deadline

By Elena R. Torrijos

FIRST Philippine Holdings Corp., the holding company for the power generation assets of the Lopez family, has asked its creditor to once again extend the repayment date of a $60-million debt from the end of this month to the end of July.

In separate interviews, bankers said creditor banks had agreed in principle to the second extension after rebuffing FPHC's initial proposal earlier this month to settle $35 million of the obligations in June and to repay the balance over a period of one year.

FPHC is expected to conclude a $35-million borrowing from the Asian Infrastructure Mezzanine Capital Fund, owned by Darby Overseas Investments Ltd. of Washington DC through Hong Kong-based Prumerica Asia Infrastructure Investors.

A person familiar with the matter said FPHC was also ironing out another $30-million loan from financial adviser Credit Suisse First Boston.

FGHC International, a wholly-owned Cayman Island subsidiary, was able to partially pay only $10 million of a $70-million loan that fell due last May 22. Its creditors had agreed to extend the repayment date to end of June. The balance amounting to $60 million was guaranteed by FPHC.

In a disclosure last month to the Philippine Stock Exchange, FPHC assistant information officer Rodolfo Waga Jr. said that the company was expecting to generate sufficient funds to answer for the balance of the $70 million loan facility by means of dividends and FGHC International's issuance of short-term notes in the amount of $35 million to Darby's AIMCF.

Waga also explained that the proposed issuance of $35 million in short-term notes would likewise allow another set of investors to purchase additional guaranteed notes also worth $35 million.

Waga had also disclosed that FGHC International settled on May 22 its $5 million worth of floating rate notes.

Following the non-payment of the bulk of the $70-million facility, Philippine Rating Services Corp. last week downgraded its rating for FPHC's P800 million worth of long-term commercial paper from PRS A to PRS Baa. PRS Baa is defined as: "Neither highly protected nor poorly secured. Interest payments and principal security appear adequate for the present but certain elements may be lacking or may be characteristically unreliable over any great length of time."

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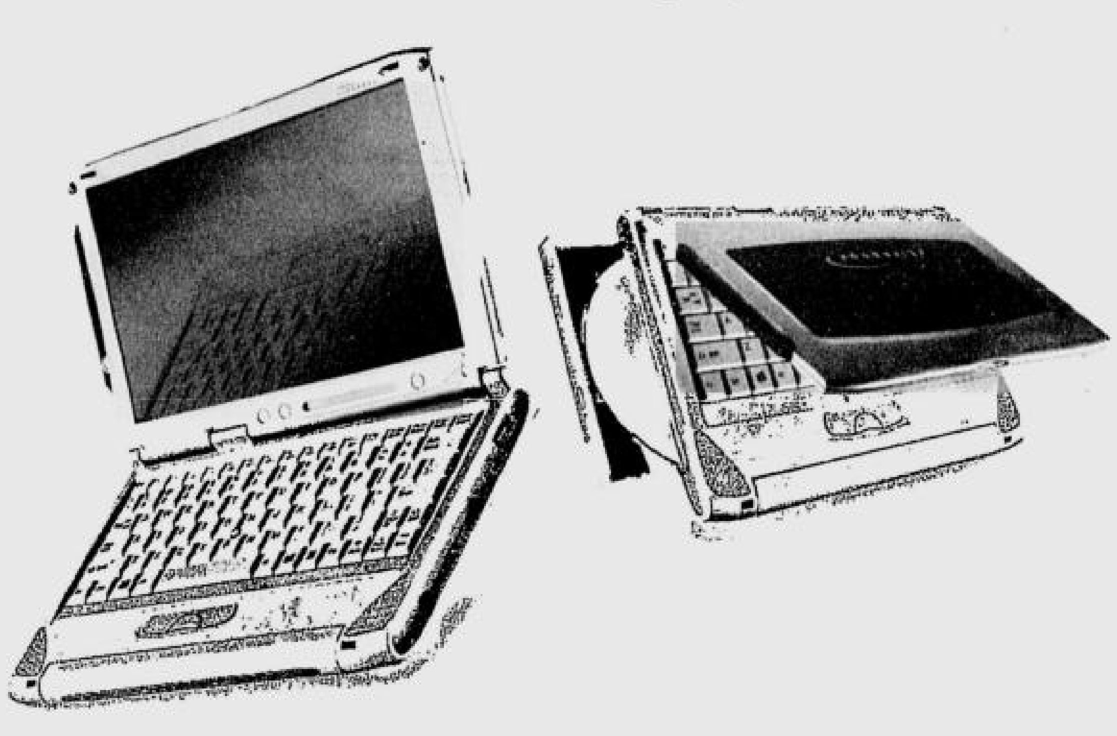

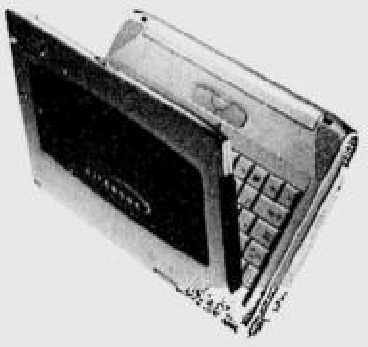

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Solving the teacher shortage

QUESTIONS OF POLICIES

Honesto C. General

CLASSES at the public schools opened for the new term with a shortage of 35,000 teachers, or so I read somewhere. This problem can easily be traced to the compulsory retirement policy of the Department of Education.

The Philippine Association of Retired Persons (PARP) wants to strike out the compulsory retirement age rule from the labor and civil service codes. If this is done, there will never be a shortage of public school teachers.

Compulsory retirement by reason of age, whether from the private or public sector, was an idea that became popular about 50 years ago. It was thought then that the older, doddering employees should give way to the young and vigorous generation that came into the work force.

At Ayala, where I got my first job after college, the compulsory retirement age was brought down from age 65 to 60. This was supposed to encourage the young employees to work harder since they did not have to wait for the elders to retire at age 65. It did not quite work out this way. The postwar boom opened up a lot of jobs at the bottom and middle levels that the younger employees did not have to wait for the elders to retire in order to get ahead.

Besides, there are jobs, in insurance as in other lines of work, which one never retires from. Teaching is one vocation where the older the teacher gets, the better he becomes.

Compulsory retirement by reason of age is discriminatory. It is also wasteful of our scarce resources. There is so much expertise lying idle with our retirees.

Remember the best-selling pre-World War II novel, "Goodbye, Mr. Chips"? The movie was a box office hit, with Robert Donat and Greer Garson in the lead roles. A few years ago, a remake starred Peter O'Toole and Petula Clark.

Mr. Chips was a schoolteacher in a boys' school in England. Starting out as a young man, generations of young men studied under him. In spite of his long and faithful service, he never became headmaster. But he taught class every day until the day he died at a ripe old age.

Schoolteachers, public or private, should not be retired by reason of age. A teacher ripens with age. My friend, Cesar Agnir, president of the Northern Christian College in Laoag City, keeps a few members in the faculty beyond the compulsory retirement age. Ateneo de Manila University at Loyola Heights, Quezon City, has a few teachers and professors who seem to have been in campus since ancient times.

During the PARP convention last April, I met Benedicto M. Hornilla, president of the Manila Retired Teachers Association. Hornilla looked like he could still take a full load for many semesters to come.

Last weekend, I was in Daet, Camarines Norte. As acting president of PARP, I was the guest speaker at the annual meeting of the Camarines Norte Government Retirees Association (Cangra). There were about 80 delegates from all over the province. Most of the delegates were retired lady teachers. Considering how they danced the cha-cha, they all looked like they could still handle a full load. What a waste that they were no longer teaching our youngsters.

The civil service rules on retirement, especially for public school teachers, should be scrapped. Let the teachers teach class until they drop dead. Then, we won't have any teacher shortage anymore. As a stopgap measure, DECS could put the retired teachers under contract.

MVP's next move

COCKTALES

Victor C. Agustin

METRO Pacific Corp. is set to announce this week that chair/CEO Manuel V. Pangilinan will relinquish the presidency of the publicly listed real estate concern in favor of its chief financial officer Jose Ma. Lim.

According to the grapevine, the move will allow the workaholic MVP to spend one or two days a week in Hong Kong with the parent company First Pacific, where MVP also presides as chief executive officer.

Shrunk by the Asian currency crisis under a mountain of debt, Metro Pacific, and MVP in particular, has committed this year to conclude its debt reduction and restructuring program with creditors and pay off the remaining P2.5 billion it owes its cash-strapped parent First Pacific.

MVP left for Hong Kong and the United States over the weekend, after presiding in Friday's annual stockholders' meeting of Metro Pacific.

During Friday's meeting, a couple of voices pointedly asked MVP when shareholders could expect any dividend declaration. (Indirect answer: Probably in four to five years.)

The handover at Metro Pacific coincides with its move to downsize its board to 11 members from the original 15 as a result of the company selling its control over Fort Bonifacio to rival Ayala Land Inc.

The Metro Pacific boardroom changes are not, however, expected to wash over to its sister company, PLDT, where MVP is also president and CEO.

Within his Hong Kong base, there is considerable pressure for MVP to rebuild the once regional trading powerhouse from a "passive" investment company that it had been reduced to post-1997.

According to recently resigned executive director Ronald Brown, First Pacific has been suffering negative cash flows and could hardly meet its Hong Kong office corporate overheads of salaries and bank loan interest payments.

LTO: License to overcharge

THOSE who register their vehicles at the Subic Land Transportation Office are inevitably steered by the solicitous LTO staff to Security Pacific Assurance Co. for their vehicle's mandatory third party liability coverage.

But instead of the usual P490/year premium that the Manila office charges for every car, the Subic branch of Security Pacific assesses P690, or P200 more for every vehicle. Now where could the extra P200 go?

The saving grace of the transaction is that an official receipt covers every payment, which means that the government receives a share of the higher premium.

Courtroom chronicles

- THE Antipolo judge who shot dead a motorist over a traffic altercation has escaped criminal prosecution and is thus back to his old judicial duties. Claiming self-defense, Regional Trial Court Judge Francisco Querubin has apparently been able to persuade the victim's family to no longer pursue the case.

- THIS one goes to Raul Roco's credibility department. His loyal partner Lorna Kapunan, as counsel of the Baguio Country Club, has been throwing every legal and extra-legal trick in the book to block even simple minority BCC shareholders' request to conduct an annual, open election.

Now as counsel of ousted Asian Hospital chair Evelyn Singson, Kapunan is mouthing the same arguments of the BCC minority shareholders that she herself has fallen deaf to in asking the majority group of Asian Hospital chair Jorge Garcia to open the corporate books for her client's inspection.

- THE website of the Supreme Court, from where promulgations of the high court could be accessed, has not been updated since early April.

Three phone calls to the SC public information office in the last month and a half have so far revealed no satisfactory explanation, except an admission that the website is being maintained by the management information section, an entirely separate department.

Heard through the grapevine

SAN Miguel vice chair Ramon Ang, a certified car aficionado, has snapped up two of the 17 Porsche Cayennes brought into the country by exclusive dealer PGA Cars.

The remaining 15 have all been sold to other low-key car collectors.

The world's fastest "sports-ute," the German SUV has a base price, if bought in the United States, of about $56,000 for the S level, and about $90,000 for the Turbo version.

(Cocktales may be reached at cocktales_pdi@yahoo.com or at cocktales_pdi@hotmail.com.)

Gov't reviving plan to seek $200-M loan from World Bank

By Doris C. Dumlao

THE GOVERNMENT plans to revive negotiations with the World Bank on a $200-million public sector finance management reform (PSFM) program loan this year, banking on the sustainability of recent improvements in revenue collection.

Finance Undersecretary Juanita Amatong told reporters the PSFM program loan was being delayed by the deterioration in the government's finances. She noted, however, that the fiscal trend which has turned favorable over the last two months might boost chances of finally signing the package.

"It is tied with the revenue performance. We want to see whether this improvement can be sustained. We want to give it six months," Amatong said.

"We want to negotiate the loan within the year. Hopefully, revenue collection would cooperate with us," she said.

A co-financing plan with another donor is also being worked out for the proposed program loan with the World Bank.

In the Public Expenditure, Procurement and Financial Management Review of the Philippines conducted by the World Bank in June last year, it warned that the trend of shrinking revenues against the rising expenditures was compromising the government's ability to flesh out its poverty-reduction agenda. It thus called for various administrative and policy measures to improve the tax effort, or the ratio of tax collection to the gross domestic product.

From the peak of 13-14 percent in 1997, the tax effort has since deteriorated mainly due to the underperformance by the Bureau of Internal Revenue, which accounted for more than 70 percent of government revenues.

Aside from its concerns on revenue mobilization, the bank was also worried about the government's contingent liabilities and off-budget risks relating to government corporations and reform of the state-owned pension fund system.

For its part, the Department of Finance was proposing that the PSFM loan be sealed as a quick-disbursing facility.

"We want that loan to be a single tranche where the conditions are substantially complied with," Amatong said.

To its credit, the government was able to keep its budget deficits below targets for the months of April and May, fueling optimism that it would be able to meet its full-year goal. It hopes to bring down the deficit this year to P202 billion from P210.7 billion last year.

The government was able to keep in check the budget deficit in the first five months this year due to reforms in tax administration and cutbacks in government spending particularly on infrastructure.

Finance Secretary Jose Isidro Camacho reported last week that the budget deficit—the difference between government earnings and expenses—hit P75.4 billion from January to May this year or 14 percent below the 5-month target of P87.4 billion.

Revenue collections in the first 5 months hit P257.4 billion or 6 percent over the P242-billion target while expenditures were kept at P332.7 billion or one percent ahead of the P329.5-billion target.

RP remains . . .

From page B3

ahead of any favorable action from the FATF.

"I think that would be handled separately and I am quite confident we will be accepted there. The only reason why we could not make a bid before was of course we did not have the appropriate laws that were acceptable to members," Buenaventura said in an interview.

But in its meeting in Berlin on Friday, the international body to fight money laundering and terrorism financing still kept the Philippines in its list of uncooperative countries.

Aside from the Philippines, the list includes the Cook Islands, Egypt, Guatemala, Indonesia, Myanmar, Nauru, Nigeria and Ukraine.

During the meeting, the FATF praised Ukraine for progress in cleaning up its banking system but gave low marks to Indonesia and Myanmar for their continued infractions. The FATF removed the Caribbean island state St. Vincent and the Grenadines from its list of uncooperative countries.

"From what we have heard from the FATF, it will take as long as two years (before the Philippines can be stricken off the list) but that is okay. They will look at how effective is our implementing plans against the accepted law. So it could be as early as 12 months or it could be as late as 24 months," Buenaventura said.

"The delisting is just an imprimatur saying that your implementing plans are effective. There will be a continuing review so even those that were delisted, their laws continue to be monitored by FATF to make sure that there is no sliding back," he said.

The Philippines was included in the FATF non-cooperative list of countries and territories on June 22, 2000 for lack of an anti-money-laundering legislation. On Sept. 29, 2001, the AMLA or Republic Act 9160 was signed into law but it failed to pass the standards of the FATF. On March 7 this year, the amendments were incorporated into the law and these are to be reviewed by the FATF.

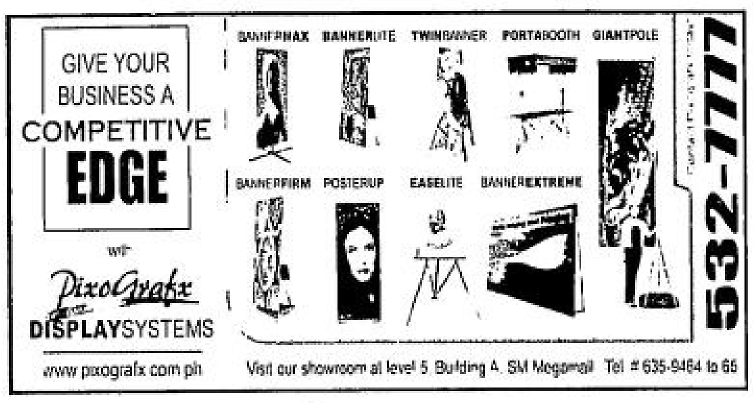
Still, the BSP is optimistic that the United States would help the Philippines enter the Egmont group.

"They (the US) have been our strongest supporter on this. Of course they have been the strongest proponent for the implementation of the effective anti-money laundering laws globally," Buenaventura said.

Earlier, the United States, through Ambassador Francis Ricciardone, expressed support for the country's bid to be part of the Egmont Group, which currently includes 69 countries with operational financial intelligence units (FIUs) that share database in order to effectively track cross-border capital flows suspected to be sourced from illicit means.

Since the early 1990s, various countries have put up their own FIUs to cater to their specific needs. In 1995, however, a number of the FIUs began working together in an organization known as the Egmont Group, named after the location of the first meeting in the Egmont-Arenberg Palace in Brussels.

The goal of the group is to provide a forum for FIUs to improve support to their respective national anti-money laundering programs.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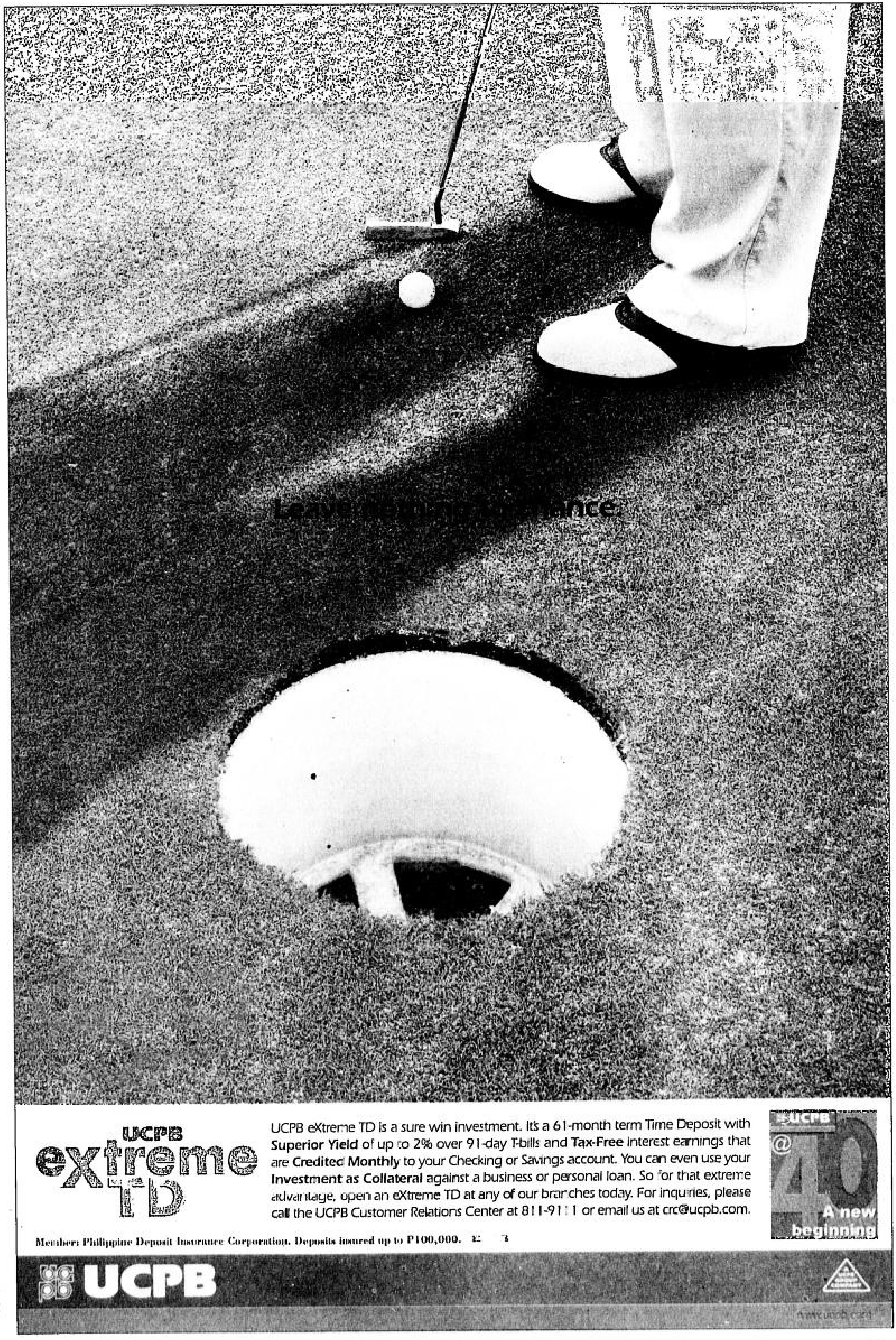

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2-3 YEARS

Piltel rebound seen

By Abigail L. Ho

CASH-STRAPPED Pilipino Telephone Corp. expects to finally be in the black in two to three years, with cash flow problems easing because of the strong performance of global system for mobile communications (GSM) brand Talk 'N Text.

Piltel chair Napoleon Nazareno said in an interview Saturday that the company had been steadily posting improvements in performance over the past few months, registering positive earnings before interest, tax, depreciation and amortization as well as positive operating income.

"Piltel is doing well, mainly driven by Talk 'N Text. It has been sustaining its own operations," he said.

As of the end of the first quarter, Piltel posted slightly higher operating revenues of P889.6 million from P869.9 million in the same period last year.

Its net loss likewise fell by 60 percent to P360.2 million in the first quarter from P894.4 million in the same period a year ago.

The problem of the telecommunications firm remained the sharp impact of foreign exchange rate changes on its bottom line because of its huge dollar-denominated debt load.

Piltel has more than P30 billion in debts that it is currently restructuring.

In the first quarter, Piltel posted a 395-percent increase in other expenses due to the weakening of the peso against the dollar, registering a foreign exchange loss of P162.5 million as compared with a foreign exchange gain of P118.3 million in the same period last year.

Despite this hurdle, Nazareno expressed optimism that the debt-ridden cellular service provider would be able to recover, especially considering the continued good response of subscribers to its Talk 'N Text brand.

As far as subscriber take-up was concerned, he said this year could be better than last year for both Piltel and sister firm Smart Communications Inc., judging from the good second quarter numbers.

Net subscriber additions for Smart reached 564,000 in the first quarter, giving the company a total subscriber base of 7.4 million. Including Talk 'N Text subscribers, Smart had around 9.4 million subscribers as of end-March.

Smart hit the 10-million subscriber mark on June 3. It now has more than 10 million subscribers on its network, Nazareno said.

"We attribute this to wider coverage and new products and services, like our SuperSIM 2, new postpaid offerings and the Smart Buddy Load," he said.

Stocks

From page B1

easing abroad should help the BSP relax its own monetary policies. A low interest rate environment should help provide more liquidity into equities as the money markets become relatively less attractive," Vistan said.

Beyond this week, however, both Vistan and BPI Securities warned of caution. BPI Securities noted that there was already some indication that foreign buying has slowed.

"As long as foreign interest in the market remains strong, we can expect the market to maintain the positive momentum over the near-term," BPI Securities said. "Key perhaps to sustaining interest would be corporate earnings growth; generally positive second-quarter results would, at the very least, sustain the market at current levels." *Elena R. Torrijos*

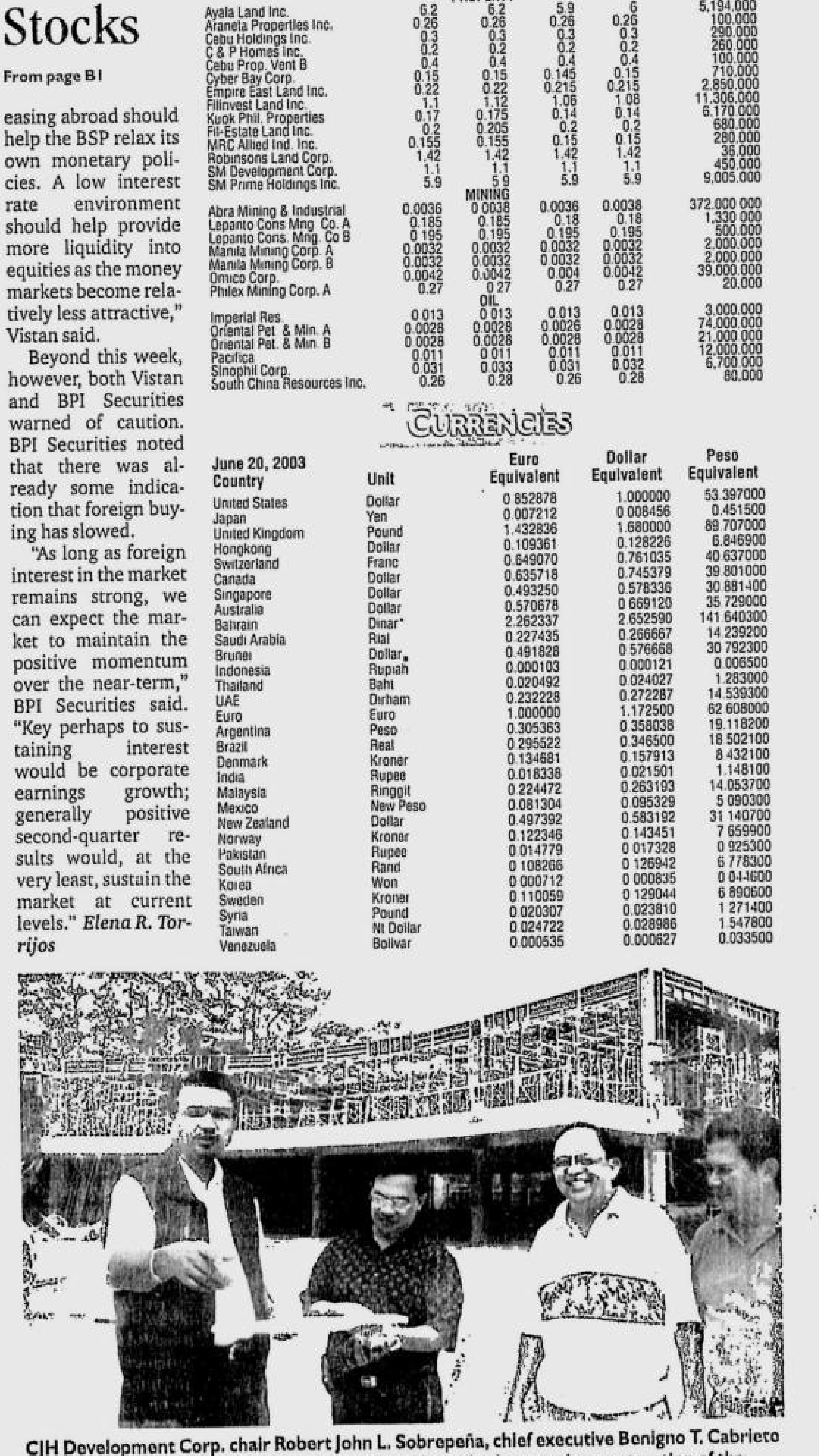
PHILIPPINE STOCK EXCHANGE

(As of June 20, 2003)

STOCKS	OPEN	HIGH	LOW	CLOSE	VOLUME
BANKS & FINANCIAL SERVICES					
BANKS					
Asiatrust Dev. Bank Inc.	4.55	4.55	4.5	4.5	8,000
Banco de Oro Univ. Bank	19	19	18.5	18.5	50,000
Bank of the Phil. Islands	48	48	48	48	639,100
China Banking Corp.	725	725	725	725	590
Citystate Savings Bank	14.5	14.5	14.5	14.5	2,000
Equitable PCI Bank Inc.	36	37.5	36	36	499,000
Metropolitan Bank & Trust	31.5	31.5	31	31	447,300
Philippine National Bank	24.75	24.75	24.75	24.75	7,400
Security Bank Corp.	13	13	12.75	12.75	63,600
Union Bank of the Phil.	20.5	20.5	20.5	20.5	70,500
FINANCIAL SERVICES					
Bankard Inc.	1.36	1.36	1.36	1.36	25,000
Filipino Fund Inc.	2.8	2.8	2.8	2.8	1,000
PCI Leasing & Fin. Inc.	0.8	0.8	0.8	0.8	100,000
Sun Life Financial Serv.	1100	1100	1100	1100	40
COMMERCIAL & INDUSTRIAL					
COMMUNICATION					
ABS-CBN Broadcasting Corp.	20.5	20.75	20.25	20.5	16,600
Digital Telecom Phils Inc.	0.78	0.78	0.76	0.77	3,650,000
Globe Telecom Inc.	630	630	625	630	12,690
Island Info and Tech Inc.	0.044	0.044	0.044	0.044	200,000
ISM Communications Corp.	0.024	0.025	0.024	0.025	10,300,000
Liberty Telecoms Holdings	0.16	0.16	0.16	0.16	10,000
Pilipino Tel. Corp.	0.41	0.41	0.41	0.41	5,010,000
Phil. Telegraph & Tel. Co	0.24	0.24	0.24	0.24	20,000
Phil. Long Dis Tel Co.	535	535	525	525	154,780
Ivantage Corp.	0.44	0.44	0.44	0.44	100,000
Philweb Corp.	0.014	0.014	0.012	0.013	54,900,000
POWER & ENERGY					
Manila Electric Co. A	10	10	9.7	9.8	822,000
Manila Electric Co. B	15	15	14	14.5	1,278,800
Petron Corp.	2.04	2.04	2.02	2.02	3,391,000
TRANSPORTATION SERVICES					
Asian Terminals Inc.	1.64	1.7	1.62	1.7	1,435,000
Int'l Container Term'l Sv	2.9	3.05	2.9	3.05	3,626,000
Keppel Phils. Marine Inc.	0.31	0.31	0.31	0.31	60,000
William,Gothong & Aboitiz	2.1	2.1	2.1	2.1	12,000
CONSTRUCTION & OTHER RELATED PRODUCTS					
Engineering Equip. Inc.	0.48	0.48	0.47	0.48	560,000
Republic Glass Hldg. Corp.	1.6	1.6	1.6	1.6	250,000
FOOD, BEVERAGES & TOBACCO					
Alaska Milk Corp.	2.65	2.85	2.65	2.85	878,000
Ginebra San Miguel Inc.	29.5	30.5	29.5	30.5	17,400
Jollibee Foods Corp.	17.25	17.5	17.25	17.5	758,600
RFM Corp.	0.79	0.79	0.79	0.79	120,000
Swift Food Inc.	0.3	0.3	0.3	0.3	340,000
San Miguel Corp. A	54	54.5	53.5	54.5	195,700
San Miguel Corp. B	63	63	63	63	92,900
Universal Robina Corp.	4.75	4.85	4.75	4.85	50,000
Vitarich Corp.	0.24	0.24	0.24	0.24	120,000
HOLDING FIRMS					
Abacus Con Res & Hdg A	0.33	0.33	0.33	0.33	10,000
Ayala Corp.	5	5	4.85	4.9	2,329,000
Aboitiz Equity Ventures	2.38	2.4	2.38	2.4	241,000
Ajo.Net Holdings Inc.	0.036	0.036	0.034	0.034	23,900,000
APC Group Inc.	0.075	0.085	0.075	0.0775	12,700,000
ATN Holdings Inc.	1.62	1.8	1.52	1.76	1,537,000
Balabac Resources & Hldgs	0.16	0.16	0.16	0.16	200,000
Benpres Holdings Corp.	0.53	0.53	0.51	0.52	9,410,000
A Brown Company Inc.	0.7	0.7	0.7	0.7	90,000
Crown Equities Inc.	0.18	0.18	0.18	0.18	200,000
DMCI Holdings Inc.	0.245	0.245	0.24	0.24	200,000
Filinvest Dev. Corp.	1.24	1.24	1.24	1.24	72,000
First Phil Hldgs Corp.	12.5	12.5	11.75	12.5	1,889,100
Global Equities Inc.	0.1	0.105	0.09	0.09	760,000
House of Investments Inc.	0.48	0.48	0.48	0.48	10,000
Ionics Inc.	0.85	0.86	0.85	0.86	440,000
J.G. Summit Holdings Inc.	1.72	1.76	1.7	1.7	923,000
Macroasia Corp.	0.55	0.55	0.55	0.55	40,000
Marsteel Cons. Inc. A	0.009	0.009	0.009	0.009	3,000,000
Megaworld Corp.	0.76	0.76	0.72	0.75	3,220,000
Multitech Inv. Corp.	0.32	0.32	0.32	0.32	100,000
Metro Pacific Corp.	0.24	0.25	0.235	0.25	14,460,000
Music Corp.	0.37	0.38	0.37	0.38	200,000
Prime Orion Phils. Inc.	0.1	0.1	0.1	0.1	200,000
East Asia Power Res. Corp.	0.05	0.05	0.045	0.045	3,500,000
Solid Group Inc.	0.24	0.24	0.24	0.24	200,000
Tanduay Holdings Inc.	3	3	3	3	5,000
Unioil Res. & Holdings Co	0.045	0.06	0.045	0.06	900,000
Uniwide Holdings Inc.	0.07	0.075	0.07	0.075	2,700,000
Waterfront Phils. Inc.	0.28	0.28	0.28	0.28	210,000
MANUFACTURING, DISTRIBUTION & TRADING					
Cen Azucar De Tarlac	1.6	1.6	1.6	1.6	5,000
Corro-Coat Inc.	1.28	1.28	1.28	1.28	10,000
Metro Alliance Holdings	1.08	1.1	1.08	1.1	70,000
Metro Alliance Hldgs B	1.1	1.1	1.1	1.1	40,000
Mabuhay Vinyl Corp.	1.68	1.8	1.66	1.8	222,000
Pryce Corp.	0.15	0.15	0.15	0.15	50,000
SPI Technologies Inc.	15.75	15.75	15.75	15.75	10,000
Steniel Manufacturing	0.11	0.11	0.11	0.11	1,200,000
HOTEL, RECREATION & OTHER SERVICES					
Belle Corp.	0.55	0.61	0.55	0.56	33,700,000
Leisure & Resorts Corp.	0.38	0.39	0.38	0.39	300,000
Mondragon Intl Phils Inc.	0.29	0.3	0.28	0.28	640,000
Premiere Ent. Prod. Inc	0.38	0.38	0.38	0.38	30,000
BONDS, PREFERRED & WARRANTS					
ABS-CBN Hldgs. Corp. (Pdr)	20.5	20.75	20.5	20.75	1,731,200
PLDT (10% Pref) Series Z	10.25	10.25	10.25	10.25	1,000
Philweb Corp. - Warrants	0.0024	0.0024	0.0024	0.0024	6,000,000
OTHERS					
Centro Escolar University	5.1	5.1	5.1	5.1	31,000
PROPERTY					
Ayala Land Inc.	6.2	6.2	5.9	6	5,194,000
Araneta Properties Inc.	0.26	0.26	0.26	0.26	100,000
Cebu Holdings Inc.	0.3	0.3	0.3	0.3	290,000
C & P Homes Inc.	0.2	0.2	0.2	0.2	260,000
Cebu Prop. Vent B	0.4	0.4	0.4	0.4	100,000
Cyber Bay Corp.	0.15	0.15	0.145	0.15	710,000
Empire East Land Inc.	0.22	0.22	0.215	0.215	2,850,000
Filinvest Land Inc.	1.1	1.12	1.06	1.08	11,306,000
Kuok Phil. Properties	0.17	0.175	0.14	0.14	6,170,000
Fil-Estate Land Inc.	0.2	0.205	0.2	0.2	680,000
MRC Allied Ind. Inc.	0.155	0.155	0.15	0.15	280,000
Robinsons Land Corp.	1.42	1.42	1.42	1.42	36,000
SM Development Corp.	1.1	1.1	1.1	1.1	450,000
SM Prime Holdings Inc.	5.9	5.9	5.9	5.9	9,005,000
MINING					
Abra Mining & Industrial	0.0036	0.0038	0.0036	0.0038	372,000,000
Lepanto Cons Mng Co. A	0.185	0.185	0.18	0.18	1,330,000
Lepanto Cons. Mng. Co B	0.195	0.195	0.195	0.195	500,000
Manila Mining Corp. A	0.0032	0.0032	0.0032	0.0032	2,000,000
Manila Mining Corp. B	0.0032	0.0032	0.0032	0.0032	2,000,000
Omico Corp.	0.0042	0.0042	0.004	0.0042	39,000,000
Philex Mining Corp. A	0.27	0.27	0.27	0.27	20,000
OIL					
Imperial Res.	0.013	0.013	0.013	0.013	3,000,000
Oriental Pet. & Min. A	0.0028	0.0028	0.0026	0.0028	74,000,000
Oriental Pet. & Min. B	0.0028	0.0028	0.0028	0.0028	21,000,000
Pacifica	0.011	0.011	0.011	0.011	12,000,000
Sinophil Corp.	0.031	0.033	0.031	0.032	6,700,000
South China Resources Inc.	0.26	0.28	0.26	0.28	80,000

CURRENCIES

June 20, 2003 Country	Unit	Euro Equivalent	Dollar Equivalent	Peso Equivalent
United States	Dollar	0.852878	1.000000	53.397000
Japan	Yen	0.007212	0.008456	0.451500
United Kingdom	Pound	1.432836	1.680000	89.707000
Hongkong	Dollar	0.109361	0.128226	6.846900
Switzerland	Franc	0.649070	0.761035	40.637000
Canada	Dollar	0.635718	0.745379	39.801000
Singapore	Dollar	0.493250	0.578336	30.881400
Australia	Dollar	0.570678	0.669120	35.729000
Bahrain	Dinar*	2.262337	2.652590	141.640300
Saudi Arabia	Rial	0.227435	0.266667	14.239200
Brunei	Dollar	0.491828	0.576668	30.792300
Indonesia	Rupiah	0.000103	0.000121	0.006500
Thailand	Baht	0.020492	0.024027	1.283000
UAE	Dirham	0.232228	0.272287	14.539300
Euro	Euro	1.000000	1.172500	62.608000
Argentina	Peso	0.305363	0.358038	19.118200
Brazil	Real	0.295522	0.346500	18.502100
Denmark	Kroner	0.134681	0.157913	8.432100
India	Rupee	0.018338	0.021501	1.148100
Malaysia	Ringgit	0.224472	0.263193	14.053700
Mexico	New Peso	0.081304	0.095329	5.090300
New Zealand	Dollar	0.497392	0.583192	31.140700
Norway	Kroner	0.122346	0.143451	7.659900
Pakistan	Rupee	0.014779	0.017328	0.925300
South Africa	Rand	0.108266	0.126942	6.778300
Korea	Won	0.000712	0.000835	0.044600
Sweden	Kroner	0.110059	0.129044	6.890600
Syria	Pound	0.020307	0.023810	1.271400
Taiwan	Nt Dollar	0.024722	0.028986	1.547800
Venezuela	Bolivar	0.000535	0.000627	0.033500



CJH Development Corp. chair Robert John L. Sobrepeña, chief executive Benigno T. Cabrieto Jr., chief operating officer Gus Salgado and Paco Gonzalez inspect the construction of the Camp John Hay Suites beside the Manor Hotel, which is now fully operational. This is the second condotel being built in Camp John Hay with a total of 278 rooms.

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ALABANG "B"	1.5M	PUNTA FUEGO	550K	CANLUBANG	450K
BAGUIO CC	700K	QC SPORTS "A"	200K	CAPITOL HILLS	140K
CALATAGAN "A"	80K	RIVIERA "A"	Callnow	CC @ TAG	350K
CELEB (INDIV)	175K	S'WOODS "B"	600K	CLUB FILIPINO	140K
CELEB (CORP)	Callnow	STA. ELENA "A"	1.4M	FOREST HILLS "A"	150K
FOREST HILLS "A"	200K	SUBIC BAY YACHT	Callnow	MLA POLO	2.1M
MLA POLO	2.45M	TAG HLANDS	Callnow	MKTI SPORTS "A"	250K
MIMOSA (CORP)	270K	TAG MIDLANDS	750K	VALLEY GOLF	270K

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CC AT TAGAYTAY	10,000	TAGAYTAY HIGHLANDS	35,000
MIMOSA GOLF & CC	10,000	TAGAYTAY MIDLANDS	30,000
MLA SOUTHWOODS	45,000	WACK WACK	[illegible]

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Baguio Country Club	620,000	750,000
Calatagan Golf Club "A"	-	70,000
Calatagan Golf Club "B"	-	80,000
Camp John Hay	-	230,000
Canlubang	450,000	550,000
Canyonwoods	-	150,000
Capitol Hills	120,000	160,000
Cebu Country Club	1,100,000	-
Celebrity Sports Club	180,000	190,000
Club Filipino	110,000	150,000
Evercrest "A"	-	80,000
Forest Hills "A"	150,000	200,000
Forest Hills "B"	-	200,000
Forest Hills "C"	210,000	250,000
Makati Sports Club "A"	230,000	270,000
Makati Sports Club "B"	-	300,000
Manila Golf (Corporate)	-	12,000,000
Manila Golf (Individual)	10,100,000	10,600,000
Manila Polo	2,200,000	2,400,000
Manila Southwoods "A"	420,000	500,000
Manila Southwoods "B"	500,000	600,000
Manila Yacht Club	-	500,000
Metropolitan Club "A"	90,000	120,000
Mimosa (Individual)	90,000	120,000
Mimosa (Corporate)	-	300,000
Montemar (Corporate)	70,000	-
Mt. Malarayat (Individual)	-	270,000
Mt. Malarayat (Corporate)	-	500,000
Puerto Azul	-	100,000
Quezon City Sports Club	-	200,000
Rockwell	-	380,000
Royale Tagaytay "A"		Please Call
Sherwood Hills "A"	-	80,000
Sherwood Hills "B"	-	180,000
Sherwood Hills "C"	-	180,000
Sta. Elena "A"	1,250,000	1,500,000
Sta. Elena "B"	1,600,000	-
Subic Bay Yacht (Corporate)	-	280,000
Subic Bay Yacht (Individual)	-	120,000
Tagaytay Country Club	370,000	430,000
Tagaytay Highlands	750,000	850,000
Tagaytay Midlands	650,000	750,000
Valle Verde (Individual)	120,000	140,000
Valley Golf	280,000	330,000
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Eagle Ridge A/B/C	250/340/400	Manila Golf (Indiv.)/Corp	10.3M/11M
Forest Hill & Fontana	Please call	Manila Polo	2.550M
Manila Southwoods "A"	400T	Makati Sports "A"	210T
Mimosa	110T	Mimosa Corp	300T
Mt. Malarayat "A"	270T	Orchard "A"	170T
Riviera "A"	130T	Sherwood	50T
Sta. Elena A	1.450M	Tagaytay Highland Golf	750T
Sherwood	55T	Valley Golf	270T
Subic Yacht (Indiv.)	120/230	Wack Wack	6.2M
Valle Verde CC	120T		
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Camp John Hay	220,000	Pls. Call
Canyon Woods	160,000	Pls. Call
Capitol Hills	-	135,000
Calatagan Golf Club A/B**	70,000/Pls. Call	-
Celebrity Sports Club	160,000	150,000
Club Filipino	-	140,000
Eagleridge A/B*/C**	270,000/450,000**	220,000
Eastridge B	-	80,000
Evercrest	100,000	-
Fontana D/C*/A**	70,000/140,000*/220,000**	-
Forest Hills A/B*/C**	220,000/230,000*/250,000**	175,000
Manila Golf Ind./Corp.*	12,000,000*	11,000,000*
Manila Polo	2,375,000	2,000,000
Makati Sports Club A/B*	-	210,000
Manila Yacht Club	550,000	-
Manila Southwoods A/B*	640,000/600,000*	450,000
Metropolitan Club	100,000	90,000
Mimosa Golf Ind./Corp.*	-	95,000/280,000*
Mt. Malarayat Ind./Corp.*	270,000	-
Orchard Golf A/B*	Pls. Call	Pls. Call
Phil. Columbian	70,000	-
Puerto Azul A/B	100,000/150,000*	-
Punta Fuego	500,000	400,000
Quezon City Sports Club A	220,000	-
Riviera Golf A/C*	380,000*	100,000
Royale Tagaytay A/C*	Pls. Call*	-
Sherwoods A/B*/C**	80,000/Pls. Call*	70,000**
Sta. Elena Golf A/B*	-	1,400,000
Subic Bay Yacht Club (Corp.)	160,000	-
Spa & Lodge	100,000	-
Subic Golf	Pls. Call	-
Tagaytay Highlands Golf & CC	900,000	700,000
Tagaytay Country Club	-	320,000
Tagaytay Midlands	700,000	-
Valley Golf & CC	300,000	250,000
Valle Verde (Indv)	160,000	-

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» Develop an effective organization and successfully manage people

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» Human capital, performance and organizational dynamics
» Creating and sustaining a competitive edge with the right marketing plan
» Financial reporting and financial statements
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Help your company achieve breakthroughs in speed, flexibility, efficiency and responsiveness
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» Reduce manufacturing, transportation and warehousing costs
» Learn how supply chain integration can increase ROI, strengthen competitive position and enhance the value of your company

What You Will Cover
» Supply chain management: definition, models and evolution
» The impact of e-commerce on supply chains
» Key supply chain management issues: inventory reduction, strategic partnerships, information technology, supply chain cost reduction opportunities, global supply chains, logistics
» Information technology and decision support systems
» Managing the supply chain

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[illegible] make good management and technical decisions and leverage your IT resources to support the business and enhance organizational profitability. This three-day seminar provides a step-by-step guide to successfully managing projects, people and priorities. Because operational expertise is the key to success, 80% of the seminar focuses on finance and operations: budgeting, scheduling forecasting, project management, vendor selection and software/systems testing—while 20% of the course is devoted to people skills.

Who Should Attend
New or prospective IT managers with zero to three years of experience—including those who manage IS/IT operations, networks/systems, help desks, projects and databases.

How You Will Benefit
» Obtain world-class tools and techniques for efficiently managing your IT department
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» Successfully deliver projects on time and within budget
» Overcome obstacles to success within the department and across the organization
» Increase your ability to lead, manage and motivate your IT team
» Communicate effectively with senior IT managers, department managers and end users

What You Will Cover
» The value of IT in helping your company achieve its mission
» Using influence with peers, direct reports, other employees
» Best practices in managing daily operations
» Developing the IT strategic plan and budget
» Strategic decision making: lease/buy...outsourcing/contractors/in-house supplier selection and negotiation
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Who Should Attend
Anyone who provides a service or product to external or internal customers, including customer service representatives, technical and support personnel, field service representatives, account managers, credit and billing specialists, small business owners—as well as managers who want to reinforce their skills and train their staffs.

How You Will Benefit
» Deliver better, faster service
» Increase customer satisfaction
» Gain repeat business
» Increase your credibility with customers—and your value to your organization
» Better manage stressful situations

What You Will Cover
» Knowing what customers expect
» Understanding the signals you transmit to, and receive from, other people
» Assessing the personality types of your customers
» Controlling problem situations
» Creating a positive image with customers
» Cultivating effective skills for both phone and e-mail communications
» Proven-successful steps to follow during a customer service transaction
» Recognizing signals of irritation and responding appropriately to refocus on finding a solution

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An open letter to the President

MINDANAO ONE

Joji Ilagan-Bian

June 10, 2003

Her Excellency
GLORIA MACAPAGAL ARROYO
The President
Republic of the Philippines

Madame President:

We wish to congratulate and extend our gratitude to Her Excellency for all the support the administration has given to Mindanao. The number of reforms focused on Mindanao is a testament to your administration's sincerity in addressing the concerns raised by the Mindanao business community.

In particular, we wish to thank the Office of the President for leading in the revitalization of the Brunei Darussalam-Indonesia-Malaysia-Philippines–East Asean Growth Area (BIMP-Eaga), of which Mindanao is a focal area. Ancillary to this, we are thankful to the President for her positive move to issue Memorandum Order 40, extending travel tax exemption in the BIMP-Eaga area until 2004, as well as her numerous representations on behalf of Mindanao to her Eaga counterparts.

We also thank Her Excellency for her policy statement on the advantages of using modern biotechnology, thereby precipitating the issuance of Department of Agriculture–Administrative Order No. 8, allowing the commercialization of *Bacillus thuringiensis* (Bt) corn, and helping improve productivity in Mindanao's corn industry. Likewise, the issuance of Executive Order No. 170 and the establishment of the Strong Republic Nautical Highway will help reduce the cost of shipping Mindanao commodities. Another reform deemed beneficial for Mindanao SMEs is the Sulong Program, a major step toward addressing the difficulty of the SMEs' access to credit.

The Mindanao business sector has been a very united and vocal force in calling for key policy reforms to facilitate business activities in the region. We have come a long way in pushing for transport efficiency, agricultural modernization, credit accessibility, increased inter-regional trade, transparency in governance, and other much needed reforms to promote Mindanao's economic development.

The private sector has matured through the years by taking on a more proactive role in development. Rather than simply articulating our demands, we have committed ourselves to increase our collaboration with the government in instituting reforms and providing our share in needed action and intervention.

The Mindanao business sector therefore reaffirms its commitment in supporting the government in its development agenda for Mindanao.

On peace and order

The private sector has committed itself to providing a more proactive role in efforts to promote the peace process, aside from ensuring that local business shall maintain its operations and provide the necessary employment opportunities in Mindanao.

Desirous of an increased role in peace building, the MBC recommends that the peace talks be resumed, with support from the private sector in realizing whatever commitment the government makes on its part. Moreover, the private sector's role in the peace process may be formalized by Her Excellency's appointment of a business representative to the GRP-MILF peace panel.

On promoting business in Mindanao

The business community recognizes the need to back up a government policy with actual investment and operations. This is exemplified in the government's ongoing efforts to forge a Fisheries Access Agreement with Indonesia. The Mindanao private sector has pledged to provide the necessary investment in the fleet requirements for the agreement. The very strong partnership between the BFAR and the tuna industry in complying with MHLC provisos is a testament to our assurance of support. Understanding that enticing foreign air carriers to fly to Mindanao entails a similar commitment to ensure passenger and cargo load, please be informed that the MBC and its partners are collectively coming up with the necessary promotional plans, tour packages, and are identifying new opportunities for trade flow.

We are in full agreement as to the need to support our small and medium enterprises (SMEs), and we believe that the government's unified lending program, Sulong, is a move in the right direction. However, we believe that the program would truly be effective if the implementing government financial institutions (GFIs) adhere to the intent of the program and avoid the tendency to impose burdensome collateral requirements and other restrictive conditions on borrowers

On addressing red tape and corruption

The MBC has spearheaded efforts to address the issue of corruption by the establishment of an island-wide coalition for transparency and governance. We request the President to fast-track the issuance of necessary implementing rules and regulations for the Procurement Law as reference and guidance for our coalition.

On human resources development

The private sector recognizes that education is a core factor in sustainable peace and development. Thus, it has made a pledge to actively seek ways to supplement the necessary investments for the operation of schools and education programs in the ARMM and other conflict-affected areas. Likewise, we recommend that government should make the necessary adjustments to increase Mindanao's budget for education, invest in developing apprenticeship and scholarship programs, especially in the ARMM, and making the necessary policy modifications to promote private sector investment in education. These modifications involve, among others, the Dual Training System (DTS) law, which provides the modality for bridging the gap between the skills training conducted and actual industry needs.

In closing, we are thankful for your efforts to promote Mindanao's socioeconomic development. In behalf of my colleagues in the private sector, allow me to reiterate our commitment for a more responsive business community and a more proactive private sector role in the island's development.

Thank you very much.

Respectfully,
JOJI ILAGAN BIAN
Chairperson
Mindanao
Business Council

(Ms Bian is the chair of the Mindanao Business Council and the acting chair for the East Asean Business Council)

Restoration of tax perks for FCDUs, OBUs sought

By Doris C. Dumlao

THE BANGKO Sentral ng Pilipinas warned that the build-up of foreign currency deposit units (FCDUs), considered as the country's second layer of foreign reserves, might slow down if the tax exemption previously accorded to FCDUs and offshore banking units (OBUs) were not restored.

In a statement during a recent congressional hearing on the issue, BSP Governor Rafael Buenaventura said there was a possibility that the additional tax slapped on OBUs and FCDUs would be passed on to clients in terms of lower effective interest rates on deposits or placements.

He said higher service charges would also serve as a disincentive for both residents and non-residents to deposit their foreign currencies in FCDUs.

"This, in turn, could result in a lower FCDU deposits for lending to exporters, oil companies, public utilities, producers and manufacturers," Buenaventura said.

"At the same time, this could reduce the potential pool of reserves that the country could use in meeting maturing external obligations," he said.

When the comprehensive tax reform law was passed in 1997, it removed the tax deductibility of interests and other operating expenses of FCDUs and OBUs. As such, OBUs and FCDUs are now being taxed at a rate more than the 10 percent final tax on onshore income that they used to pay prior to 1997.

A bill is currently pending in Congress seeking the restoration of these tax privileges.

"Banks could discontinue their FCDU operations and consolidate their foreign exchange business into their regular transactions, which could translate to higher costs of intermediation that, in turn, could eventually be passed on to clients," the BSP chief said.

"Depositors might be encouraged to transfer their funds abroad, leading to lower level of FCDU deposits," he said.

Even at the height of the Asian currency turmoil, he noted that FCDU deposits remained stable at $14 billion to $15 billion, of which 85 percent was owned by overseas Filipinos and other residents. As of March 2003, the level has declined to $13.3 billion but the share of OFWs and residents increased to 96 percent.

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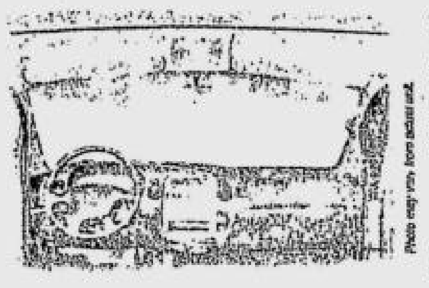

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40%	P372,000	48,793	33,490	27,038	19,341	15,607	13,355
50%	P465,000	40,366	27,704	22,373	16,004	12,914	11,048

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DP%	DP	12mos.	18mos.	24mos.	36mos.	48mos.	60mos.
20%	P166,000	67,606	46,456	37,510	26,889	21,742	18,657
30%	P259,000	59,154	40,648	32,821	23,528	19,024	16,325
40%	P352,000	50,704	34,841	28,133	20,167	16,306	13,993
50%	P445,000	42,253	29,034	23,444	16,806	13,589	11,661

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***Subject to bank approval.

ZERO Interest Plan
(12 months; 50%downpayment)

Model	SRP	50% DP	NMI
SVX MT(10s)	P 930,000	465,000	38,750
SVX AT(10s)	P 980,000	490,000	40,833.30
CLUB AT	P1,140,000	570,000	47,500
JUMBO MT	P 935,000	467,500	38,958.30

Participating banks: BPI Family Bank, Union Bank Philam Savings Bank, Philippine Savings Bank, UCPB, Equitable-PCI Bank, Metrobank, RCBC, Chinabank

All costs are exclusive of freight and handling charges.

Per DTI-NCR Permit No. 2592, Series of 2003.

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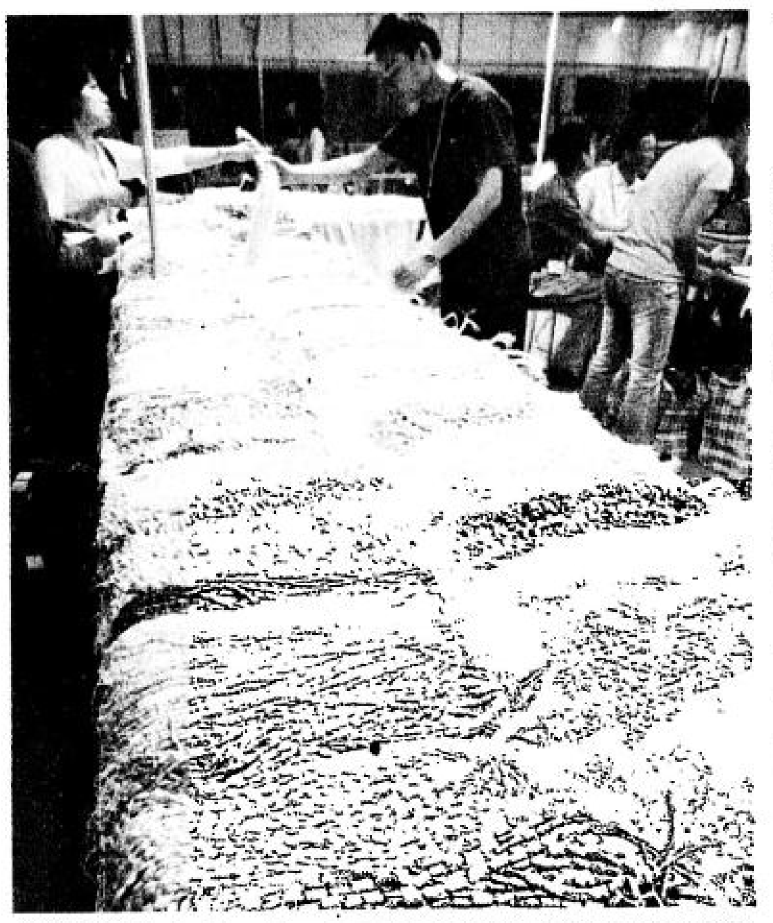

A VISITOR to the Hong Kong Jewelry and Watch Fair negotiates with an exhibitor of cultured fresh water pearls from China. Organizers of Asia's biggest midyear jewelry fair said that while there was not a significant drop in attendance due to the SARS outbreak, most of the participants are local. AP

US Fed poised for new rate cut

NEW YORK—Wall Street's top bond dealers are dead certain the Federal Reserve is going to lower interest rates this week but they are completely flummoxed about the size of the cut.

A Reuters survey of the dealers who trade directly with the Fed showed a deep division over how aggressive the Fed will be.

The poll found the camp expecting a half-percentage-point cut edging out those who see a smaller move by 12 to nine.

The Federal Reserve, which will hold a two-day policy meeting on Tuesday and Wednesday, is seen as set to lower the 1.25 percent federal funds rate for the 13th time since it started cutting rates aggressively in January 2001.

The source of the confusion is dueling articles by two respected Fed watchers in rival newspapers: The Washington Post on Thursday forecast, without quoting sources, a half-point cut, while the Wall Street Journal on Friday cited Fed officials saying a quarter-point cut remains on the table.

Whether the conflicting reports reflect genuine debate among Fed officials about what they should do at next week's policy meeting or are an attempt to massage market expectations leading into the meeting is anybody's guess.

The economy's stumbling recovery from the 2001 recession has led to more job losses than during the last "jobless recovery" of the early 1990s, and policy-makers hope another dose of lower interest rates will further feed consumers' appetite for houses and cars and keep the recovery afloat.

The Reuters survey, conducted on Friday, showed a definite shift over the past two weeks in expectations of a larger half-point cut. *Reuters*

Markets don't always listen to Greenspan

WASHINGTON—When Federal Reserve Chair Alan Greenspan speaks, markets listen—unless he's talking about the stock market.

That's the conclusion of a Fed study released Friday that sought to quantify how much impact Greenspan's comments and the official statements of the central bank's Federal Open Market Committee have on the behavior of financial markets.

The findings by Federal Reserve board member Donald L. Kohn and Fed economist Brian P. Sack would help to explain why Greenspan's famous warning about "irrational exuberance" in December 1996 failed to keep the market from continuing to set record highs until the bubble burst in the spring of 2000.

The Kohn and Sack study examined all of Greenspan's speeches and congressional testimony since 1989 as well as the official announcements on interest rates issued by the FOMC.

The study determined that the few times Greenspan ventured into comments about the level of the stock market, there usually was very little impact.

On 10 occasions when Greenspan expressed opinions about stock valuations, financial markets had major reactions only twice.

The Standard & Poor's index of 500 stocks registered a sharp decline in July 1998 after Greenspan told a Senate committee that stock prices were being driven higher by "unrealistic forecasts" of corporate earnings. Greenspan also sparked a major reaction in an October 1999 speech in which he said that a lesson of history was that "sharp reversals" in the stock market could occur very abruptly. *AP*

United out of bankruptcy by early '04

CHICAGO—United Airlines intends to emerge from bankruptcy sometime between October and March, executives said Friday.

Officials of the world's second largest carrier reiterated in bankruptcy court that they're targeting the fourth quarter of this year or the first quarter of 2004 to exit Chapter 11.

But despite the recent recovery in revenue, they noted they still face significant challenges in order to return to profitability.

Citing better progress than expected, United executives first talked publicly last month about coming out of bankruptcy earlier than the original 18-month target, still a year off.

"There are a lot of things we need to do to get out," chief financial officer Jake Brace told reporters after a hearing in US Bankruptcy Court.

"One of those things is exit financing."

United, which is completing work on a business plan that will underpin the reorganization plan it has to file by Oct. 6, also intends to reapply for a federal loan guarantee from the Air Transportation Stabilization Board.

The carrier made the largest bankruptcy filing in aviation history on Dec. 9, just five days after its request for $1.8 billion in government loan guarantees was rejected because of an unsound business plan. *AP*

Improved Oracle bid rejected

NEW YORK/SAN FRANCISCO—PeopleSoft Inc.

on Friday rejected a sweetened $6.3-billion hostile bid from Oracle Corp., and paved the way for a white knight bidder to step in and challenge the offer from its bigger rival.

The two companies have been engaged in a bitter exchange since June 6, when Oracle offered to buy PeopleSoft for $5.1 billion.

PeopleSoft responded days later by accelerating and adding cash to its own $1.75 billion bid for smaller software maker J.D. Edwards & Co. in a move widely seen as a tactic to thwart Oracle.

Redwood Shores, California-based Oracle, the world's No. 2 software maker, on Wednesday raised its bid for rival PeopleSoft to $19.50 a share from $16, only to have it rejected by PeopleSoft's board as too low. *Reuters*

Grow your business with East West Bank's Corporate Suite

As the business grows, office administrative tasks like payroll, check preparation, and collection have become more complex and immense. To run it efficiently, more manpower may be needed. However, this move may be too costly, and time-consuming, efforts are concentrated on the non-core aspects of the business.

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The East West Bank Corporate Suite takes care of the various tasks, from disbursement and reconciliation, to payment collection. These are covered by the different facilities under the Corporate Suite as follows: PayrollAssist, ChequePrepare, BizCheque, BillsCollect, ChequeDepot, and Collect@Site.

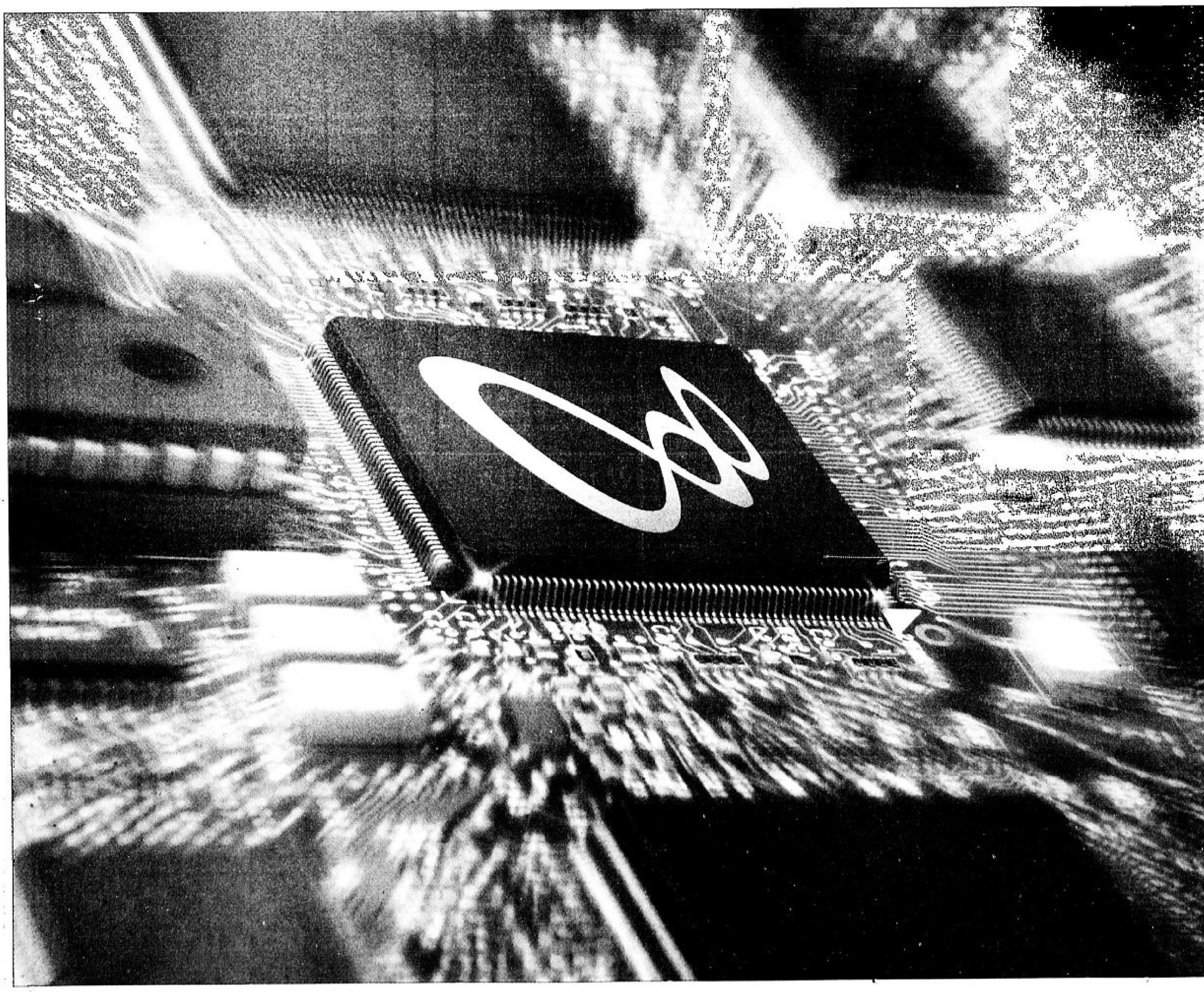
The PayrollAssist is EWBC's most popular facility due to the versatility and range of the service. The PayrollAssist is an automated payroll preparation, payment and credit facility that allows for an easier and convenient payroll preparation and crediting process through a proprietary software developed exclusively for EWBC clients, and loaded with features not found in most payroll programs, including a built-in 201 file called Human Resource Information System.

ChequePrepare and BizCheque both address the check preparation and checkwriting requirements of corporate clients and SMEs. ChequePrepare practically eliminates manual preparation, individual signing of voluminous loads of checks, and tedious disbursement. Meanwhile, for small and medium enterprises, BizCheque not only provides a versatile interest-earning checking account, but a check preparation software as well that ensures operational efficiency and up-to-date fund management, including monitoring of payables. Even an ordinary office printer can be transformed into a check printer to customize the checks, with matching company logo to boot.

On the collection side, East West Bank came up with its Corporate Collection facilities to answer the client's need to collect from various channels. BillsCollect makes the Bank's Personalized Banking Center (PBC) as the company's payment center, doing away with the hiring of collection agents or setting up collection offices. It is highly systematized with the daily summary of collections sent electronically, and same day payment credit to the client's account.

ChequeDepot is another welcome tool for check management. In this case, EWBC takes care of the safekeeping and warehousing of postdated checks, crediting them to the client's account as soon as they fall due, without the need for manual tracking of these checks. Collect@Site, meanwhile, another value-for-money service provided by the Bank which offers the convenience of not having to go to the Bank to deposit substantial amounts, whether cash or check. An armored car with complete security escort will be sent to the client's office to pick up the deposits, providing a safe and risk-free way of transporting deposits to the Bank.

All these services are available to the client provided the pre-arranged Average Daily Balance on the account is met. The Corporate Suite, another innovative banking service from East West Bank meant to explore the many opportunities in service that goes beyond banking basics and help build lasting relationships with its clients. To know more about Corporate Suite, call the 8ACCESS (822-2377) hotline, and request for a product presentation now! ADVT



FATF expands laundering watch

BERLIN—The international body to fight money laundering and terrorism financing agreed Friday to extend existing controls on banks to a much larger circle including casinos, real estate agents and jewelers.

At the end of its annual meeting, the more than 30 member countries of the Financial Action Task Force (FATF) approved the new guidelines in recognition of the increasingly creative means that criminals use to cover up dubious transactions.

The new rules marked the second time since the FATF's creation in 1989 that it has overhauled its rules, which must be written into the lawbooks of its member nations.

They would not only affect traditional financial institutions but also lawyers, notaries public, accountants and dealers in precious metals and stones—in essence all professionals who could potentially aid criminals.

The FATF also outlawed so-called "shell banks," set up purely for the secret transiting of funds, and tighter surveillance of the accounts of "politically exposed persons" such as corrupt dictators.

According to various estimates, up to $1.5 trillion (1.3 trillion euros) are laundered each year from industries ranging from the drug trade to arms running.

FATF removed the Caribbean island state St. Vincent and the Grenadines from its list of uncooperative countries.

The list includes the Cook Islands, Egypt, Guatemala, Indonesia, Myanmar, Nauru, Nigeria, the Philippines and Ukraine.

The FATF was created by the Paris-based Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development to fight money laundering.

AFP

EU leaders back Italian growth plan

PORTO CARRAS, Greece—European Union leaders asked incoming EU president Italy on Friday to pursue its "New Deal" initiative to boost growth by investing billions of euros in infrastructure and research.

But both Germany and Sweden doubted whether the plan would revive the EU's sluggish economy, as Italian Prime Minister Silvio Berlusconi has suggested.

The leaders approved a statement noting the European Commission's intention to launch Italy's proposal to increase European Investment Bank (EIB) investment in pan-European road, rail and energy projects and research and development.

"(The EU) invites the Italian presidency to pursue this further," the summit conclusions said.

Italy proposes that the EIB borrow up to 70 billion euros a year to fund the major infrastructure projects.

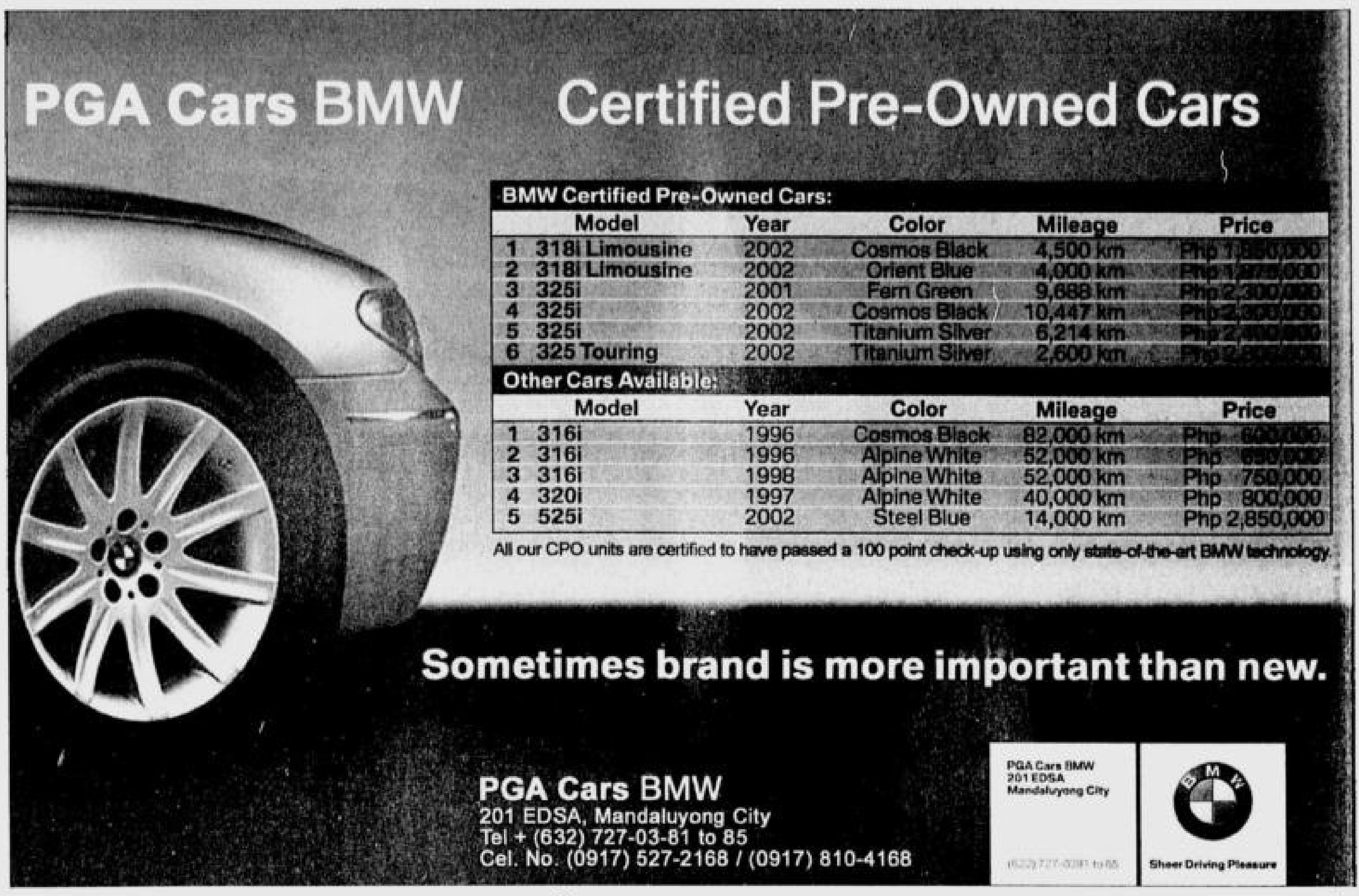
"In every country there is a reduction in domestic consumption," Berlusconi told reporters. "To support the economy we need to substitute domestic demand with public demand. Public demand shouldn't be consumption, but possibly investment."

He said the original infrastructure plan could be broadened to include investment in new military technology and greater financing for research and education.

However, Gemany, by far the EU's biggest financial contributor, expressed doubts about the plan, saying similar attempts in the past had not yielded the expected results.

Swedish Prime Minister Goran Persson said he also doubted whether the project would succeed.

Reuters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3	316i	1998	Alpine White	52,000 km	Php 750,000
4	320i	1997	Alpine White	40,000 km	Php 800,000
5	525i	2002	Steel Blue	14,000 km	Php 2,850,000

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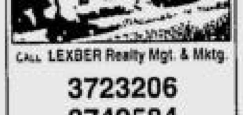

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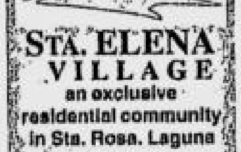

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- Legaspi Village

QUEZON CITY
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- Boni Serrano Avenue

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MANILA

NR. UP-MLA
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CARS FOR RENT

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L300 T7411356

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2% w/o Taking Car 6567685

2% w/oTaking Car 3732081-82

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2% w/oTaking Car 3650974/75

2% w/oTaking Car 6870490/95

2% w/oTaking Car 7228942-43

DBP Development Bank of the Philippines

INVITATION TO BID

The Development Bank of the Philippines will receive sealed bids on July 9, 2003, 2:00 p.m. at the Auditorium of the DBP Head Office, Sen. Gil Puyat Ave. cor. Makati Ave., Makati City for the following properties on CASH BASIS.

CODE	LOCATION	DESCRIPTION	MINIMUM BID
REAL ESTATE			
MANILA			
AMD-ED-35	Bo. Dampalit, Malabon City	3 adjoining fishpond lots, total area of 59,973 m² (TCT Nos. M-25813, M-25814 & M-25815)	P 6,597,000.00
AMD-JB-36	No. 428 Inocencio St., San Roque, Pasay City	2 adjoining residential lots, total area of 253.70 m² with 4-door 2-storey apartment	P 2,219,000.00
LEG-JG1	No. 5-J Blk. 69, Diliman Quezon City	95.30 m² residential lot (TCT No. 218852) with bldg. & improvements	P 1,311,300.00
AMD-ED-37	INA Executive Homes I Levitown Estate Subd., Don Bosco, Parañaque City	190 m² residential lot (TCT No. 144520) with bldg. & improvements	P 1,176,700.00
AMD-MR-38	1304 Int. M. Naval St., Navotas	338 m² residential/industrial lot (TCT No. C-300082) with factory bldg. & improvements	P 544,180.00
LEG-JG2	Moon St., Zabarte, Caloocan City	100 m² vacant residential lot (TCT No. 346198)	P 350,000.00
ALBAY			
LEG-CSD	Bagacay, Legaspi City	35.1762 has. & 3 6622 has. fishponds (TCT Nos. 23199 & 512, respectively) with imprvts.	P 6,763,200.00
BATANGAS			
LIP-LAO-02	Bgy. Luntal, Tuy	2 parcels of lots (TCT Nos. T-94455 & T-94456) total area of 9,312 m² with bldg. & imprvts.	P 15,697,000.00
LIP-LAO-03	Bgy. Dagatan, Lipa	9,312 m² agro-residential lot (TCT No. 132773)	P 7,915,200.00
BULACAN			
LRD-157a	Brgy. Maasim, San Rafael	2,026 m² residential/commercial lots (TCT Nos. T-167138, T-167144 & T-167145) with bldgs. & imprvts.	P 16,338,600.00
LRD-157b	Carlos St., San Jose, Baliuag	200 m² commercial lot (TCT No. T-167135) with bldgs. & imprvts.	P 2,366,700.00
LRD-157c	San Roque, Baliuag	4,064 m² agro-residential lot (TCT No. T-167136)	P 2,032,000.00
LRD-157d	Brgy. Maasim, San Rafael	1,224 m² residential lot (TCT No. T-167137)	P 2,001,000.00
LRD-157e	San Agustin, San Rafael	776 m² residential lot (TCT No. T-167140)	P 1,164,000.00
CSP-01	Bo. Palimbang, Calumpit	690 m² int. residential lot (TCT No. T-162779) with factory/warehouse & office bldg.	P 2,050,000.00
CEBU			
CBU-01	Leased lot at Mactan Economic Zone, Lapulapu City	One (1) lot bldg. and imprvts. (1,205 m²), air separation/gas plant machinery and eqpt. office furnitures, 4-trucks/vans & 1-motorcycle	P 63,435,900.00
ILIGAN			
AMD-JB-39a	Mahayhay, Iligan City	1,612 m² interior lot (TCT No. T-57,198 a.f.) with residential and apartment bldgs. & imprvts.	P 4,669,600.00
AMD-JB-39b	Mahayhay, Iligan City	1,150 m² interior residential lot (TCT No. T-57,199 a.f.)	P 3,162,500.00
PAMPANGA			
AMD-MR-40a	Dolores Heights, Dolores San Fernando	402 m² residential lot (TCT No. 481055-R)	P 1,447,200.00
AMD-MR-40b		216 m² residential lot (TCT No. 481054-R)	P 777,600.00
AMD-MR-40c		216 m² residential lot (TCT No. 481053-R)	P 777,600.00
AMD-MR-40d		216 m² residential lot (TCT No. 481052-R)	P 777,600.00
AMD-MR-40e		216 m² residential lot (TCT No. 481051-R)	P 777,600.00
AMD-MR-40f	Don Bonifacio Subd., Balibago, Angeles City	356 m² residential lot (TCT No. 114588)	P 142,400.00
AMD-MR-40g		356 m² residential lot (TCT No. 114589)	P 142,400.00
AMD-MR-40h		300 m² residential lot (TCT No. 114587)	P 120,000.00
AMD-MR-40i		300 m² residential lot (TCT No. 114590)	P 120,000.00
AMD-MR-40j		300 m² residential lot (TCT No. 114593)	P 120,000.00
RIZAL			
BAL-1	Bo. Colaigue, Antipolo City	1,236 m² residential lot (TCT No. R-3760)	P 6,798,000.00
BAL-2	Bo. Colaigue, Antipolo City	1,057 m² residential lot (TCT No. R-3761)	P 6,342,000.00
BAL-3	Bgy. Muzon, Angono	308 m² residential lot (TCT No. 663764)	P 1,540,000.00
SUR-01	605 6th St., San Martin Subd., Bo. Muzon, Angono	240 m² residential lot (TCT No. 680746) with bldg. & imprvts.	P 885,800.00
ZAMBALES			
AMD-JB-41	Bo. Lucapon, Sta. Cruz	6,639 m² vacant agro-residential lot (TCT No. T53665)	P 2,159,700.00
CHATTELS (sale on "as-is, where-is" basis)			
AMD-MR-41a	Ozamiz Manabay Cmpd., Bo. Maningcol, Ozamiz City	Coco oil mill, laundry soap & lard processing equipment	P 1,077,750.00
AMD-MR-41b	Ozamiz Manabay Cmpd. Bo. Maningcol, Ozamiz City	Various transportation, handling, shop maintenance & weighing equipment	P 4,410.00 to 218,700.00

BIDDERS ARE REMINDED:

1. To inspect the properties to determine their actual condition before the bidding.
2. To submit in DBP's official bid form available at the AMD-Acquired Assets, 2nd Floor, DBP Head Office during office hours; and
3. To be on time. No bids will be accepted once unsealing of the bids commences. The sale shall be subject to other terms and conditions which may be imposed by the Bank.

DBP RESERVES THE RIGHT TO REJECT ANY OR ALL BIDS TO WAIVE ANY FORMALITY THEREIN OR TO ACCEPT SUCH BIDS AS MAY BE CONSIDERED MOST ADVANTAGEOUS TO THE BANK. THE DECISION OF THE BANK IS FINAL AND BINDING

For inquiries, please call telephone numbers:
893-7172 or 818-9511 loc. 2218/2144/3404 for Code starting with AMD;
(052) 820-1348 or 818-9511 loc 1423 for LEG;
(043) 757-2465 or 818-9511 loc. 1429 for LIP;
(044) 662-1510/892-3836 or 818-9511 loc. 1409/2128 for LRD;
926-1686 or 818-9511 loc. 1411 for CSP;
(032) 255-6310 or 818-9511 loc. 1442 for CBU;
(047) 237-3589 or 818-9511 loc. 1434 for BAL; and
(086) 826-0289 or 818-9511 loc. 1486 for SUR.

ASSET MANAGEMENT DEPARTMENT

(PDI–June 23 & 24, 2003)

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GARAGE SALE

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MUSICAL INSTRUMENTS

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MALE

MASSEUR W/OUT EXP. 8817681

FEMALE

2 DERMA FOREIGN EMPLYER GOOD SALARY 7133259/7150325

Acctg Clerk,w/exp in BIR/SSS filing to work in home ofc @Sucat.Pque P8T/mo T842-8143.0917-8436675

Dentists/Nurses 843-2596

MAID YAYA LABA 7462906

PR WRITER w/exp.coll grad to work full time in home ofc @Sucat.Pque, comp.literate 8428143;09178436675

MALE/FEMALE

DIRECT HIRE MKTG PERSONNEL 18-45 COLL GRAD/LEVEL W/ W/O EXP 4370454 BRANDY

DIRECT HIRE MKTG STAFF 18-45 YO 2527448 MR. JACOB

FREE CAREGIVER TRAINING 5280730 589-9958

JOB FAIR 09167054672 ECHO

Master Planner/Civil Engr (M) 3-5yrs exp not more than 35yo Payroll/Acctng Clerk (F) single w/exp willing to be assign in provnce 7234623-25

Mktg Person'l 09192535623 Glenda

Supervisor/Product Advisor w/wo exp. Pepe Paul 09162720617 / 7436414

TELEMARKETING 20T/MO. P/F 894-3036 • 0917-8451373

WANTED: ACCOUNTING STAFF PLS CALL 852-6105 Look for Perla

PUBLIC NOTICES

LEGAL NOTICE

Notice is given that estate of VIRGILIO E. ZULUETA was adjudicated to his sole heir Ma. Dolores Z. Aranda per Doc.495 Page 100 Book X Series 2003 before Notary Public Maria Rowena F. Mojica of Makati City.
PDI-June 9,16&23, 2003

Notice is hereby given that the heirs of Manuel Villaflor Reyes had executed a deed of extrajudicial settlement of estate with waiver of rights on April 3, 2002 and acknowledged the same before Notary Public Jose Augusto Salvacion for and in the City of Lucena, Philippines and bearing Doc. No. 330; Page No. 67; Book No. 31; Series of 2002 of his notarial register
(PDI-June23,30&July 7,2003)

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Day before publication

"Let the words of my mouth meet your Favor, keep the thoughts of my heart before you, Lord, my rock, my redeemer..."

— Psalm 21:15

Brig. General Vicente E. Evidente, Sr. (Ret.)

Commanding Gen., 3rd ID/Former Chief-of-Staff, PA

Passed away peacefully in the Grace of our Lord on June 18, 2003 at the age of 79.

His loving wife **Lita Acosta**; children **Bel** and **Nelson Corpus**; **Emma**; **Margot** and **Dave Perrin**; **Bing-Bing** and **Peepo Pineda** and **Vicente Jr.** and **Gladys Guerzon**; grandchildren; in-laws, relatives and friends request the pious reader to pray for the repose of his soul.

His remains now lie in state at the Main Mortuary of the Libingan ng Mga Bayani, Fort Bonifacio, Taguig, Rizal.

Necrological services will be held on Wednesday, June 25, 2003 after the 7 p.m. Mass. Interment will be on Thursday, June 26, 2003, 12 noon at the Libingan ng Mga Bayani, Fort Bonifacio.

Our Beloved

GEORGE CALABINHI GARCIA

Peacefully joined our Lord on June 20, 2003 at the age of 53.

His bereaved wife **Lina**; children **Leegor** and **Sarah**, **Netnet**, **Gelo**, **Pep** and **Lingling**; grandchildren **Annette**, **Bryan**, **Rachel** and **Angel**; brothers and sisters **Rosie** (†), **Gerry** and **Cris**, **Larry** and **Aggie**, **Gil** and **Mads**; in-laws, relatives and friends request the pious readers to pray for the eternal repose of his soul.

Georgie lies in state at St. Alphonsus Mary de Liguori Chapel, Magallanes Village, Makati City.

Cremation will be on Tuesday, June 24, 2003 at the Manila Memorial Park Crematorium after the 9:00 a.m. Mass at the St. Alphonsus Mary de Liguori Church.

An obituary with a picture can be a fitting tribute to your departed loved one.

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❶ Copy of Death Certificate
❷ Any identification document (I.D.)

- DEATH ANNOUNCEMENT
- MESSAGE OF THANKS
- DEATH ANNIVERSARY
- REQUIEMS

Rev. Msgr. JOSE V. FERRER (H.P.)

Of Binmaley, Pangasinan

Passed away peacefully in the Grace of the Lord on June 20, 2003 at the age of 82.

His loving brothers, **Kuya Jesus** and **Dr. Joaquin**; sisters, **Sis. Mariflora, SSpS** and **Sis. Consuelo, RGS**; sisters-in-law, nephews, nieces, grand nephews/nieces and relatives request the pious readers to pray for the eternal repose of his soul.

His mortal remains lie in state at the Presidential Suite, Loyola Memorial Chapels, Guadalupe, Makati City.

His body will be transferred to Binmaley, Pangasinan on June 23, 2003.

Interment will be on Thursday, June 26, 2003 at Binmaley Catholic Cemetery after the 9:00 a.m. Mass.

Ex-Mayor Agustin M. Valdevieso, Sr.

Died in the Grace of our Lord on June 19, 2003 at the age of 87.

He is survived by his children, grandchildren, brothers, sisters and relatives.

His remains lie in state in Matalam, North Cotabato.

Interment will be on Sunday, June 29, 2003, 9:00 AM.

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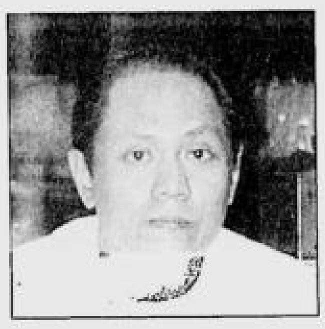


Notice is hereby given that **MR. SAMMY ALINSOD GAW**, identified in the photo above, has been terminated with cause and is no longer associated with **Allied Wires & Cable Corp.**

Any transaction on his behalf will not be honored effective **June 16, 2003.**

(PDI - June 23, 2003)

REPUBLIC OF THE PHILIPPINES
DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR AND LOCAL GOVERNMENT
Region VII, Sudlon, Lahug, Cebu City
Tel. Nos. 253-5471; 253-5479; 253-5481; 255-7730
E-mail address: dilgro7@cvis.net.ph / dilg_r7@mozcom.com
www.cvis.net.ph/dilg

June 12, 2003

INVITATION TO BID

The DILG Region VII is inviting licensed suppliers to bid for the supply and delivery of the following, viz:

- 1,878 sets GUARD BATUTA (nightstick) with tear gas and extra cartridged, holder and whistle

Suppliers/Dealers who are interested to participate in the bidding may obtain documents from the DILG Regional Office 7.

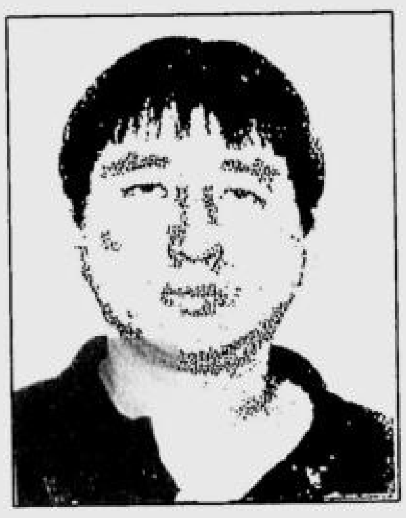
All bids must be submitted at DILG Regional Office 7, Lahug, Cebu City on July 18, 2003 accompanied with a Bid Security in an amount equivalent to five (5%) percent of the total bid proposal either in Cash/Manager's Check and surety bond callable upon demand. Bid price should include the cost in the conduct of 3-day training and demonstration to 1878 law enforcers, tanod and volunteers on how to use said equipment.

The DILG-7 reserves the right to reject any or all bids, waive any defects or informalities found therein and accept the offer found to be most advantageous to the government.

(Sgd.) DR. PEDRO A. NOVAL, JR.
ARD/BAC Chairman

(PDI–June 16 & 23, 2003)

NOTICE TO BANKS AND THE PUBLIC



A Warrant of Arrest has been issued by the Regional Trial Court of Misamis Oriental - 10th Judicial Region, Branch 39, Cagayan de Oro City (Criminal Case No. 2002-1011 for ESTAFA) against MICHAEL TAN GOCHOCO (reported to also use the names Victor Tan Ngo, Victor Ngo and Vic Ngo) with last known address at 311 Biasong Tinib, Macasandig, Cagayan de Oro City. Any information on subject whereabout may be relayed to the OROBANKERS (0917-7062769) or the nearest CIDG, NBI or PNP Station.

(PDI--June 23, 2003)

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BAGUIO WATER DISTRICT
"WE SERVE"

INVITATION TO PREQUALIFY AND TO BID

The Baguio Water District is inviting interested well drilling contractors with PCAB License having a specialty in well drilling to submit their respective pre-qualification statements (PRE-C) for the drilling of various production wells at various places in Baguio City.

Interested contractors may obtain pre-qualification forms at a non-refundable fee of P1,000.00 from the PBAC-Secretariat, BWD Office, Utility Road, Baguio City.

Issuance of Pre-C Forms	:	June 30, 2003
Deadline of submission of Pre-C	:	July 4, 2003
Issuance of Bid Documents	:	July 21-23, 2003
Deadline for Submission of Bids	:	July 24, 2003
Opening of Bids	:	July 31, 2003

BWD reserves the right to accept or reject any or all bids, to waive any informalities in the bids received and accept bids most advantageous to the District.

BWD PBAC-Projects

(PDI - June 23 & 24, 2003)

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	BLK NO.	LOT NO.	LOT AREA
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2	2	7	5,000.00
3	4	10	10,000.00
4	6	30	267.80
5	16	2	2,455.40
6	16	3	2,455.40
7	17	4	3,319.70
8	18	8	419.48
9	18	9	419.48
10	18	10	419.48
11	19	10	373.37
12	19	13	373.37
13	19	14	373.37

For details, pls. call tel. #897-3310 or 897-3488.

(PDI–June 21, 22 & 23, 2003)

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Editor **Aries Espinosa**

Promoting PR as a course

IN RESPONSE to the growing need to improve the quality of education on public relations, PR educators in the country have organized themselves into the Public Relations Educators Association of the Philippines (Preap).

Preap aims to promote PR as an important modern-day discipline and course in business schools, colleges and universities, and to bridge the skill-gap between communication educators and practitioners in the local communication industry.

As part of its continuing education program, Preap is setting up a joint venture with the Bulacan provincial government to develop and promote excellence in communication among the association members and the Bulacan communicators.

Preap elected the following officers: Shirley Rances (Sta. Isabel College), president, Rowena Capulong-Reyes (Colegio de San Juan de Letran), vice president, Corazon Arboleda (Ateneo Graduate School of Business), secretary, Doreen Marco (Miriam College), treasurer, and Marcelino Ballesteros (Miriam College and Asian Institute of Journalism and Communication), Renato Esguerra (De La Salle University) and Fe Arboleda (Sta. Isabel College), directors. Ballesteros is also Preap's founding adviser.

Named committee chairs were Dr. Ebitha Dy (Miriam College), membership and recogniton, Gary Satre (New Era College), information and publication, Lirio Aureo Luyun (St. Scholastica's College), research, and Rolando Fernandez (University of the Philippines Baguio) and Ballesteros, continuing education.

Preap held its induction of officers and members May 29 at Letran's St. Liem Dela Paz's Garden in Intramuros.

Membership is open to communication teachers and practitioners in colleges and universities. Membership forms are available at the Preap secretariat at Room 407, Margarita bldg. Along JP Rizal and Cardona Streets in Makati City. For more information, call 896-7983 or fax 897-6926.

PUBLIC RELATIONS CONGRESS

The Public Relations Society of the Philippines (PRSP) has tapped the Philippine Daily Inquirer as its official print media partner for the 11th National Public Relations Congress to be held on Sept. 24 to 26 at the Edsa Shangri-La Hotel. With the theme 'Building Relationships for a Better World', the event brings together hundreds of PR professionals, experts and advocates representing various industries and sectors in exploring revolutionary possibilities in the practice of public relations. Shown, seated from left, are PRSP Congress chair Jones Campos, PRSP president Winston Marbella, Inquirer SVP for sales and marketing Rene Reinoso, and Inquirer VP for advertising Pepito Olarte. Also shown are GMA 7 corporate communications head Chit Arce (standing left) and PLDT corporate communications manager Evelyn del Rosario.

PRSP PAST PRESIDENTS SUPPORT 11TH NATIONAL PR CONGRESS

The past presidents of the Public Relations Society of the Philippines met recently to bid support for the upcoming 11th National PR Congress to be held at Edsa Shangri-La Hotel on Sept. 24 to 26, with the theme 'Building relationships for a better world.' Shown are (seated from left) George Balagtas, APR-vice president for corporate affairs of Photokina Marketing Corp.; Winston Marbella, APR-chair and president of Marbella International Business Consultancy and current president of PRSP; Evelyn del Rosario, APR-manager for community relations division of PLDT and adviser of PRSP; Pedro Padre, APR-P.A. and Associates/Public Relations Counselors, and Carlos Agatep, APR-president of Agatep Associates Inc. Standing are Maximo Edralin Jr., APR-public relations consultant of Bangko Sentral ng Pilipinas (left) and Jones Campos, APR-head for public relations division, Globe Telecom and chair of the 11th National Public Relations Congress.

Unique business gifts, promotional items on exhibit

UNIQUE and world-class business gifts, promotional items and merchandise incentives goes on exhibit at the Dusit Hotel Nikko, Makati from June 26 to 28.

The exhibit, dubbed "Corporate Giveaways 2003", will be staged in time for the start of the ordering season for various gift items used by companies to promote their businesses to their target markets and allies in the industry.

Dusit Hotel's spacious ballroom will house this huge assembly of fascinating gift products that have become in demand, not just during Christmas, but for the year-round premiums.

Now on its 15th year, Corporate Giveaways is the country's undisputed premier buyers' show in this field, attracting hundreds of exhibitors and thousands of visitors annually since 1989.

A comprehensive database coupled with aggressive promotional campaigns has succeeded in reaching over 100,000 corporate buyers through the years.

The gift products mostly sought are made of various interesting materials and come under 9 specific categories such as breakables, fabric, food and beverage packaging, indigenous, leather, metal, paper, synthetic, and wood.

Showcasing the country's world-class creativity, many of these gift items are being exported to various countries on a per-order basis. These products can carry a corporate logo without sacrificing functionality, aesthetic quality, workmanship, and use of the material.

Distinguished for their market and marketing value, these gift items are characterized by innovative designs that have turned this novel and creative enterprise into a booming multimillion industry, with Corporate Giveaways as its trade vehicle.

Corporate Giveaways 2003 will also match gift suppliers, manufacturers and importers with corporate buyers, enabling them to transact business for the year-round giveaways way ahead of the Christmas rush.

Inquiries or reservations can be made with Worldexco at 891-8638, 834-7408, fax 834-0608, or e-mail mktg@worldexco.com. Log on to www.worldexco.com.

The event will also enable distributors to launch new products and ideas to a readily receptive market, touch base with thousands of top-management executives in search of various giveaways, and establish a vast network of potential clients on a national and international scale.

MOU FOR RESPONSIBLE CITIZENSHIP PROGRAM

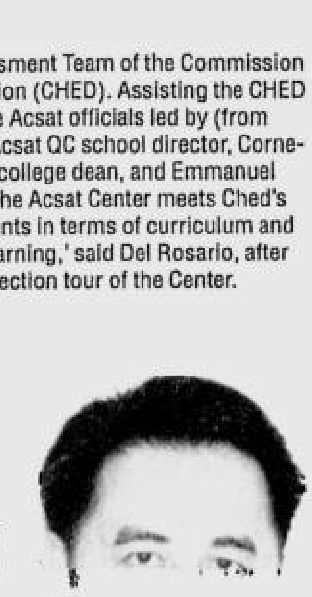
The Public Relations Society of the Philippines (PRSP) and Institute for Solidarity in Asia (ISA) of the Foundation for Community Building in the Asia-Pacific Inc. signed a memorandum of understanding on the Cooperation for Responsible Citizenship Program June 4 at Le Souffle Restaurant, Ortigas Center, Pasig City. The program is anchored on corporate governance, professional ethics and social responsibility. Seated, from left, are Carmencita G. Arce, PRSP secretary, Winston A Marbella, APR, PRSP president, Dr. Jesus P. Estanislao, ISA president and CEO, and Gil Gonzales, ISA chief operating officer. Standing are Gen. Honesto M. Isleta, APR, PRSP ex-officio, Jones T. Campos, APR, PRSP external VP, Cynthia J. Gruet, PRSP internal VP, Karen A. Villanueva, PRSP director, Roel S. Ramirez, APR, PRSP adviser, Evelyn M. del Rosario, APR, PRSP adviser, Reynalita M. Santana, PRSP treasurer, and ISA governance advisory council JJ Moreno.

MULTIMILLION-PESO IT FACILITY NOW OPEN

The Asian College of Science and Technology (Acsat) recently staged a soft launch of its multimillion-peso IT facility the Acsat Center. Located at 1013 Aurora Boulevard, Quezon City, the 8-story Acsat Center is one of the country's most advanced learning facilities with convenience and innovative amenities for its students. Shown conducting an on-site quality inspection of the Center's facilities is Allan del Rosario (foreground) of the Quality Assessment Team of the Commission on Higher Education (CHED). Assisting the CHED representative are Acsat officials led by (from left) Rufo Jawa, Acsat QC school director, Cornelio G. Fernandez, college dean, and Emmanuel Sia, Acsat SVP. 'The Acsat Center meets Ched's quality requirements in terms of curriculum and its facilities for learning,' said Del Rosario, after an extensive inspection tour of the Center.

NEW BERKLEY MANAGER

Luie C. Dy Buncio, president of Berkley International Plans, Berkley International Life and Family First Inc., all wholly owned subsidiaries of US-based Berkley International LLC, announces the appointment of Gabriel M. Castro Jr. as head for corporate markets of Berkley International Life and Plans. Castro brings with him a wealth of experience as he deftly covered the whole range of target and strategic marketing, development of alternative distribution channels and design of marketing programs. As corporate markets manager, Castro is tasked to oversee, direct and manage corporate accounts for the company's group life and pension products. He is further expected to strengthen Berkley's foothold in the corporate markets through reinvigorated campaigns and innovative approaches the company has largely been known for. Castro's appointment marks his return to the Berkley Group with which he had been employed from 1998 to 2000, initially as training and sales support manager and, subsequently, as new business manager. His most recent posting prior to his comeback role was as assistant vice president of a leading pre-need company.



CASTRO

ProductFILES

The world of dry diapers

WHY is a Drypers diaper right for your baby?

1. Cloth-like cover with breathable sides keeps your baby cooler and extra comfortable (see illustration).
2. Refastenable quiet tapes keep the diaper in place.
3. Multi-design frontal tape has six different cute and colorful designs, and makes the diaper changing process more enjoyable and educational experience for you and your baby.
4. Contoured design allows for a more comfortable fit.
5. Gentle dry layer, a super absorbent layer, quickly draws away wetness to help keep baby's skin dry.
6. Leak guards gently hug baby's legs to help prevent leaks.
7. It's perfume free, to avoid possible skin irritation.

The Drypers Diaper easy-changing process is easy. Just follow these tips:

1. Keep one hand on the baby during diaper change. Even newborns can roll off the table or bed.
2. Lay your baby down and unfasten the dirty diaper.
3. Gently grasp both ankles with one hand, lift up and slide the diaper out.
4. Don't shake baby powder directly on your baby that can go into his or her face or to the adhesive strips on the diaper. Shake the powder first onto your hand and then pat on baby's skin.
5. Position the clean diaper under your baby. Wrap between legs and open tabs.
6. Fasten the side closest to you first and then roll baby to face you on the other side.
7. Prevent diaper rash by keeping your baby dry.

'GAMETEK' TV HOBBY GAMES TO BE LAUNCHED

A new and exciting world of entertainment for people of all ages will soon unravel games to suit their personalities, lifestyles and preferences: 'GameTek'-the authority and specialist on hobby games. The weekly game program airs this July over RJTV 29 and its sister TV stations (every Tuesday 8 to 9 p.m. with replays on Thursdays). 'GameTek' is broadcast in cooperation with Dimension Creative Works (DCW) headed by JP de Guzman and Raeyan Basa. The hosts, shown above, are the trio of young sports and gaming enthusiasts Issa Litton, Madge Guanzon, and Mark Leviste. Game segments include PC Gaming, Table Top Games, Card Games, Role Playing Games, Action Games and Toy Games. There will also be special and staple segments that would further excite viewers' appetites. For more information on 'GameTek', visit Bridges Communication Inc., Unit A 267 P. Tuazon, Cubao, Quezon City, or e-mail bree@edsamail.com.ph.

Bits & Clips

'Gimik' at Starsvenue

STARSVENUE presents a formidable lineup for June. Perking up Monday evenings is Francis "Wings" Soriano. Featured on Tuesdays is Eva Poon and Jonniver. Headlining Wednesdays are Kyna and Jocar. Enlivening Thursday nights is a duo called Dreamsounds. The fast-rising U Turn goes centerstage on Fridays. MYMP (Make Your Momma Proud) fills up the venue on Saturday *gimiks* night. Starsvenue also launches its 9-Ball billiard tournament series that runs until August. The tourney is open to all Starsvenue privilege cardholders. Starsvenue is located along Pasay Road near corner Paseo de Roxas, Makati City.

STI's new tuition plans

STI EDUCATION Services Group has launched its new tuition payment plans through its program Edukasyon Ngayon, Saka na ang Tuition. The program is being implemented as a "tribute" to the Filipino youth by making education more accessible to them. The program also has a zero downpayment plan to allow students to enroll by just paying the registration fee. Payment options include the low downpayment plan, the semi-monthly payment plan, the low monthly payment plan, and the low weekly payment plan. This offer runs until June 23 only. Interested students can visit their desired STI campus to fill up an Installment Application Form.

Lecture series on real estate

TO PROVIDE guidelines to benefit beginning and prospective real estate investors, dealers, developers, and realty professionals, a seminar on Investing in Real Estate will be conducted by the Urban Institute of Real Estate on June 24 from 1:30 to 6 p.m. at Max's Restaurant, Glorietta 2, Park Square Drive corner Theater Drive, Ayala Center, Makati and to be repeated on June 26 from 1:30 to 6 p.m. at Max's Restaurant, Level 4, Robinsons Metro East, Marcos Highway, Dela Paz, Pasig City. Immediately following this seminar is a series of weekly detailed lectures on real estate finance and investment analysis, HLURB rules and property development, among other topics. For details, call Urban Institute at 681-0928.

People, Events & Products

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Editor **Aries Espinosa**

Notre Dame's SmartCard monitors students 'intelligently'

STUDENTS of Notre Dame of Greater Manila, and their parents alike, faces a brand new school year with more sense of security, thanks to the latest addition to the school's facilities-the SmartCard technology.

Systems integrator Unlimited Solutions commissioned the SmartCard technology to Notre Dame, which comprises attendance monitoring and information kiosk applications. The system has been operational since the opening of classes this June.

The SmartCart technology will enable the school to closely monitor and record the entry and exit of students through the attendance monitoring units located in the three entrance and exit gates of the school. At the same time, the information kiosks, to be installed at the Business Office lobby, will give parents easy access to students' attendance records and grades through an assigned pin code. The kiosk will likewise provide visitors access to the school's website, including their activities, announcements and future plans.

School director Fr. Jun Jacobe Jr. says that apart from boosting enrollment, much of the decision to apply this technology is anchored in Notre Dame's vision for its community.

"We believe that efficient service is part of quality education. With SmartCard and its varied applications, we hope to make efficient the school's system of services, thus saving time and lessening the burden of monitoring students and visitors."

Being the first academe in the Caloocan-Malabon-Navotas area to have applied the SmartCard technology, Fr. Jacobe added that they hope to become an inspiration to other schools in their locality to upgrade their facilities.

"Alongside quality education, security has become a pressing requirement for schools nowadays. Notre Dame is truly privileged to be able to provide our school community with such advanced technology, ensuring the safety of our students and peace of mind of their parents."

The SmartCard installation is part of Unlimited Solutions' SmartCampus offering. The SmartCampus is a modular, open-architecture solution custom-tailored for a wide range of campus environments. The multifunctional smart cards can be used by students and faculty for identification, security, computer management, laboratory management, library management, university and student affairs, canteen and other vending operations, shuttle services and many more.

ECO-LABELING PROGRAM AWARDS GREEN CONSUMERISTS

President Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo awarded the first license to use the Green Choice Seal of Environmental Approval to Alfonso C. Supetran, president and CEO of ACS Manufacturing Corp. for Pride Laundry Detergent Powder and Bar during the launching of the Ecolabeling Program recently. The Ecolabeling Program of the Philippines aims to foster green consumerism and promote environment-friendly businesses based on the standards of the ISO 14020 series. The seal is awarded to environmentally preferable products, making it an effective marketing tool. It contributes to the businesses' corporate image, increasing brand recognition and recognizing their reputation for high-quality products. Witnessing the ceremonies were (from left) DTI Undersecretary Adrian E. Cristobal Jr., DENR Secretary Elisea G. Gozun, Ms Macapagal, Alfonso Supetran, Lourdes D. Supetran, Josh Filamor of C&GFI (partly hidden), Clean and Green Foundation Inc. chair Amelita M. Ramos; Jica resident representative Osamu Nakagaki and UNDP Resident Representative Terence Jones.

SAN MIG LIGHT'S SUCCESSFUL SUMMER GETAWAY

It had been a weekend full of fun and sports adventure at White Beach, Puerto Galera as San Mig Light Summer Getaway hit the shore with full-blast beach and water sport activities and wild dance parties May 16 to 18. San Mig Light Summer Getaway was a haven of fun, sizzling parties and cool sports adventure. And for those who didn't make it to Puerto Galera this summer, there's always next year. The San Mig Light Summer Getaway was organized by EventEdge and the Big Picture Productions and is a part of the Enduro San Mig Light Sport Event Series. Shown are the winners of the beach football rookie finals with event host Lambert of Magic 89.9 (2nd from right) and game referee Justin (right)

AIDE enters into MOAs with universities

ADVANCING its mission of providing accessible and affordable higher education, the Asian Institute for Distance Education (AIDE) has recently tied up with two universities to provide student services.

AIDE has signed memoranda of agreement with the Barasoain Center for Innovative Education, Regina Carmelli University in Malolos, Bulacan, and the Batangas State University in Batangas City to serve as its learning centers for Regions I, II, and III and Region IV, respectively. The Learning Center in the AIDE office will service students in Metro Manila.

These educational institutions will provide tutorial and library services to AIDE students. In addition, AIDE students can also go to the Learning Centers for guidance and counseling services.

AIDE provides people who, due to time, physical, work and financial constraint, are unable to acquire higher schooling, opportunity to attain higher education degree through distance education. This alternative delivery system is fast becoming recognized throughout the world as an effective way of reaching out to people who cannot avail themselves of formal schooling.

Starting off as a project of the Filipinas Foundation Inc. (now Ayala Foundation), AIDE is now an established educational institution offering two baccalaureate programs AB majors in Economics, English, History, Political Science and Sociology and BSBA major in Management, which are recognized by the Commission on Higher Education (CHED).

AIDE is recognized here and abroad as evidenced by AIDE alumni who have been accepted in graduate programs in the United States and Europe.

Those interested in availing themselves of the AIDE programs can visit the AIDE office at Rm. 302 Greenbelt Mansion, Perea Street, Legaspi Village, Makati City or call 818-1111 local 203/810-0968/819-3286, Fax 813-0565.

ANDREANS' CHARITY GOLF TOURNEY

The Para Kay San Andres Charity Golf Tournament was successfully held May 9 at the Philippine Navy Golf Club. The tournament was organized by the Andrean Batch 1978, headed by president engineer Samuel Lim. Shown are Dr. Mike Marquez (PNRC), Ned Elarmo (NPC), Knold Sayaman (IMI), Digo Inciong (Paranaque), Miss Pompa (SAS HS assistant principal), Dante Garces (Inquirer), Msgr. Villanueva of St. Andrew's Cathedral, Sam Lim (GSMSC), Boyet Lunas, and Nonoy Sornillo (Newport MRSI Group). Proceeds of the event will be used to improve the facilities of the school.

DuPont, NAST recognize young scientists

DUPONT Philippines, a premier science company, and the National Academy of Science and Technology (NAST) recently held a paper presentation of finalists for the 2003 NAST-DuPont Talent Search for Young Scientists at the Champagne Salon, Manila Hotel.

The five young scientists competing for this prestigious award are: Dr. Amelita J. Bartolome, PhD (Technical Chemistry) - University of Santo Tomas; Dr. Alvin Y. Chua, PhD (Mechanical Engineering) - De La Salle University; Dr. Windell L. Rivera, PhD (Medical Science) - University of the Philippines, Diliman; Dr. Luis Francisco G. Sarmenta, PhD (Electrical Engineering and Computer Science); and Dr. James A. Villanueva, PhD (Chemistry) - University of the Philippines, Diliman. A panel of judges carefully screened the participants and selected the three best paper presenters who will receive a plaque of recognition from NAST during the awarding ceremonies at the Manila Hotel on July 10. In addition, the winners will receive cash prizes from DuPont Philippines during the occasion.

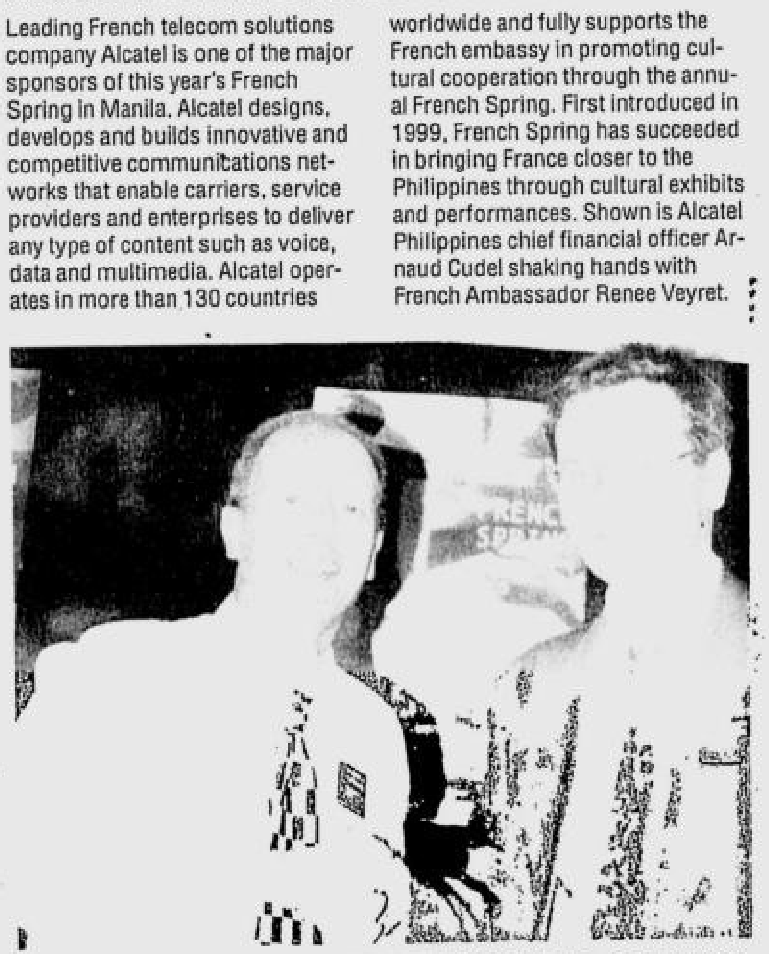
"We believe in the value of education and the significance of recognizing young students for their innovative ideas and dedication to contribute to the society with their gifted knowledge," said DuPont managing director Ramon S. Abadilla. "This contribution to the academe is in line with the company's social commitment initiatives for sustainable development in education."

DuPont Philippines and NAST, the government advisory and recognition body on science and technology, had signed a memorandum of agreement that would sustain the Young Talented Scientist Awards from 2002 to 2004. Aside from this notable project, DuPont has supported several programs and initiatives worldwide with the potential to demonstrate improved and sustainable outcomes, primarily focused in mathematics, science, and technology education.

DuPont is a science company. Founded in 1802, DuPont puts science to work by solving problems and creating solutions that make people's lives better, safer and easier. Operating in more than 70 countries, the company offers a wide range of products and services to markets including agriculture, nutrition, electronics, communications, safety and protection, home and construction, transportation and apparel.

ALCATEL FRENCH SPRING 2003 SPONSOR

Leading French telecom solutions company Alcatel is one of the major sponsors of this year's French Spring in Manila. Alcatel designs, develops and builds innovative and competitive communications networks that enable carriers, service providers and enterprises to deliver any type of content such as voice, data and multimedia. Alcatel operates in more than 130 countries worldwide and fully supports the French embassy in promoting cultural cooperation through the annual French Spring. First introduced in 1999, French Spring has succeeded in bringing France closer to the Philippines through cultural exhibits and performances. Shown is Alcatel Philippines chief financial officer Arnaud Cudel shaking hands with French Ambassador Renee Veyret.



LAFARGE BACKS FRANCE-RP CULTURAL ACTIVITY

Lafarge, the international leader in building materials, throws its support for French Spring Manila 2003, a cultural activity aimed at strengthening the bonds between France and the Philippines. The Paris-based Lafarge group is the world's number one cement producer and holds top-ranking positions in its three other divisions-aggregates and concrete, roofing and gypsum. Shown are Lafarge Cement Services Philippines industrial controller Jean-Luc Schiffmacher (left) and French Embassy First Counselor Vincent Hommeril.

DRYPERS ON MALL TOUR

Drypers Wee Wee Dry, the newest diaper to hit the country, breezed into SM Megamall recently to give mommies, and babies especially, a 'presko' experience like no other. Drypers Wee Wee Dry recently launched a cool and unique mall activity dubbed Drypers Cool World: Where Babies Feel Presko. Drypers Cool World tours major malls around Metro Manila and key cities nationwide to spread the cool, comfortable and presko world of Drypers Wee Wee Dry diapers. Shown is an entertainment number from a clown, one of the numerous activities lined up for children during mall tour. The remaining Drypers Cool World mall schedules are: Festival Supermall-June 28 and 29, Glorietta 2-July 19 and 20, Ever Commonwealth-Aug. 2 and 3, Ayala Town Center-Aug. 16 and 17, Robinsons Pampanga-Aug. 30 and 31, Citimall Batangas-Sept. 13 and 14, SM Cebu-Oct. 4 and 5, and at Gaisano Bacolod-Oct. 18 and 19.

PMA general meet June 25

THE PHILIPPINE Marketing Association (PMA) holds its 3rd monthly General Membership Meeting (GMM) on June 25, 11:30 a.m., at the Bahia Room of the Hotel Intercontinental Manila, Makati City. Tom Banguis, a respected marketing guru in the Philippines, talks on "Creative Marketing to Remain Afloat During Tough Times." Banguis is the president and founder of AB Communications, the 2nd largest Filipino-owned advertising agency in the country. It is responsible for the successful ad campaigns of Goldilocks, Photokina, Great Taste coffee, Hunt's Tomato Sauce, Sinutab, Benadryl and Philam Plans. He is the recipient of the PMA's Agora Award for Achievement in Marketing Education in 1991

Balayan's 'parade'

ALL are invited to the revelry and color of Balayan's "Parada ng Lechon". This will be held on June 24. Lawyer Ricardo Diaz is this year's president of the Hermandad San Juan Bautista who, with the mayor, aims to include in the Guinness Book of World Records the most *lechons* to be paraded in various attire and presentations. The fiesta started June 18 with activities such as a marathon, open singing contest, cycling, "Hads Dance Revolution" and variety shows by San Miguel, "Eat Bulaga", McDonald's and Ginebra San Miguel. Balayan is noted for its *bagoong*. Adams Express Travel invites the public to a full-day excursion involving a sumptuous buffet of Batangas specialties on Lake Taal and visits to the apparition site in Carmel, Lipa and Calaruega in Tagaytay. Call 521-1651 or 521-1698.

Dell Philippines country manager resigns, now with IBM

DELL Philippines Inc. country manager Irene Go-Catane has left the company to join the IBM Philippines Systems Group.

In an interview, Rosan Sison, country manager of IBM Philippines personal computer division, said Catane was introduced officially to IBM Philippines on Wednesday. Catane is expected to join the IBM Systems Group that would cover the computer company's server and storage business in the Philippines.

Catane led the local office of Dell for over a year until she decided to quit and join IBM Philippines. Catane was unavailable for comment. *Erwin Oliva*

What will happen to the Compaq brand?

By Gerry Plaza

WILL the name Compaq soon disappear?

From all indications, the Hewlett-Packard name seemed to make that historic "disappearing act" in its business products aimed at streamlining its brand strategy. But what happened instead was quite the opposite.

After the HP-Compaq merger, speculation arose regarding the future of the Compaq brand after the core corporate strategy revolved around the HP brand—grossly highlighted by the fact that even the merged entity is now called HP and not Compaq.

With this in the horizon, it would appear that the heirs of the Hewlett and Packard families did not have a reason to sulk at all. In fact, the merger made even the Hewlett-Packard name more prominent and formidable than ever, with the addition of market-leading Compaq technology into its stable of offerings.

Online reports quoted key HP officials as saying all of its business products will "become HP." Compaq may be retained in some value PC product lines but not in the core offerings, the executives claimed in the interviews.

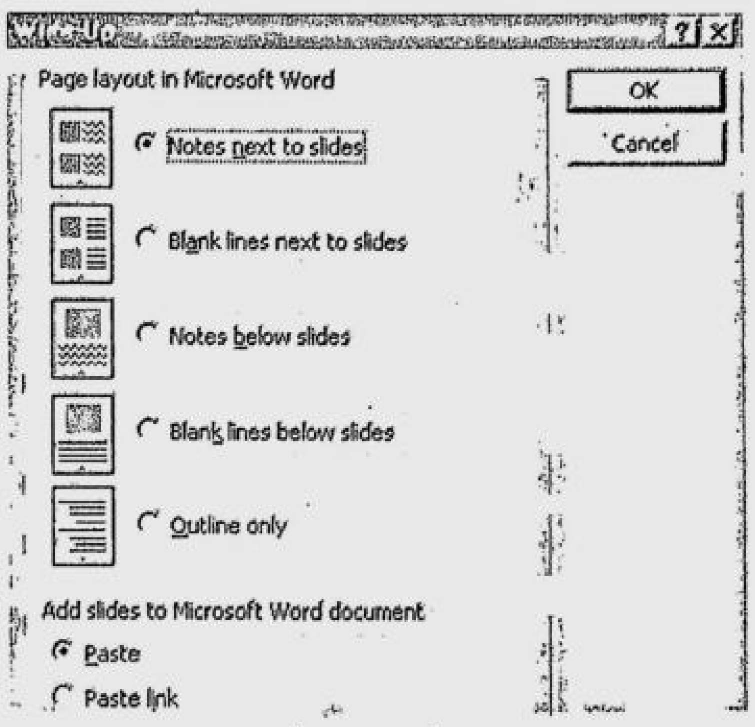
They further said the move represents a major shift for HP, which had retained the Compaq brand in some of its business products since the merger was completed in 2002. This was so because "Compaq" had better adoption and reputation among IT managers, being the leading computer brand through the years. In fact, HP officials had admitted that before the merger, Compaq desktop and notebook PC sales were three times the size of HP counterparts in the open market.

However, in the newly shipped line of commercial laptops and desktops, and tablet PCs, the HP brand appeared more prominent, as the Compaq name only showed near the model number with a smaller font type. The HP Compaq NC4000 is a case in point, wherein the HP brand is emphasized while Compaq is relegated to being a mere model name.

But for the upcoming HP tablet PC, the Compaq name is dropped completely. The current tablet PC shows the Compaq brand. HP had already rebranded Compaq's popular handheld and server lines to HP iPaq and HP ProLiant.

The rewards of toeing this line are still uncertain, considering the huge brand Compaq was to the PC market. Because of this, HP still plans to retain the Compaq brand in its consumer line of PCs. "The full red" Presario box stays and will continue to remain in the market for a long period, the executives said.

But the writing on the wall is clear.



Page layout in Microsoft Word
● Notes next to slides
○ Blank lines next to slides
○ Notes below slides
○ Blank lines below slides
○ Outline only
Add slides to Microsoft Word document
● Paste
○ Paste link

Insert a line between data groups in Excel

By Jerry Liao

POWERTIPS

AFTER SORTING a list, you can insert a line between groups of data in Microsoft Excel. Here's how:

1) Open MS Excel and enter your data
2) Sort your list and then select the data list without the column headings
3) From the Format menu, select Conditional Formatting
4) In the Condition 1 drop-down list, select Formula Is
5) In the Formula box, enter the formula =$A2<>$A3. (if your list is located in column A)
6) Click the Format button, select the Border tab. Select underline and choose a color.
7) Click OK twice.

For more tips, visit **www.brainshare.com.ph. We would like to invite our readers to join The Powertips Group. Simply register online at www.brainshare.com.ph/register.htm and receive free tips via e-mail.**

For your comments, questions and suggestions, send your e-mail to infochat@mozcom.com.

P37M worth of pirated software seized by NBI

By Erwin Lemuel G. Oliva

AN ESTIMATED P37.185 million worth of pirated software and 223 sets of computers were confiscated by the National Bureau of Investigation during a raid of several establishments in San Pablo in Laguna province.

At a media briefing on Wednesday, the NBI said the raid stemmed from a complaint filed by legal counsels of top commercial software firms including Symantec, Adobe, Autodesk and Macromedia, the NBI said.

The NBI, however, declined to disclose the name of the raided establishments and the identities of the owners of the seized computers. The raid was conducted on Tuesday.

Following a surveillance by the NBI Intellectual Property Rights Division, the San Pablo regional trial court issued a search warrant on June 17, 2003 allowing authorities to conduct the raid.

The owners of the establishments face criminal charges for violation of the Philippine Intellectual Property Rights Law.

Google now available in Filipino version

By Erwin Lemuel G. Oliva

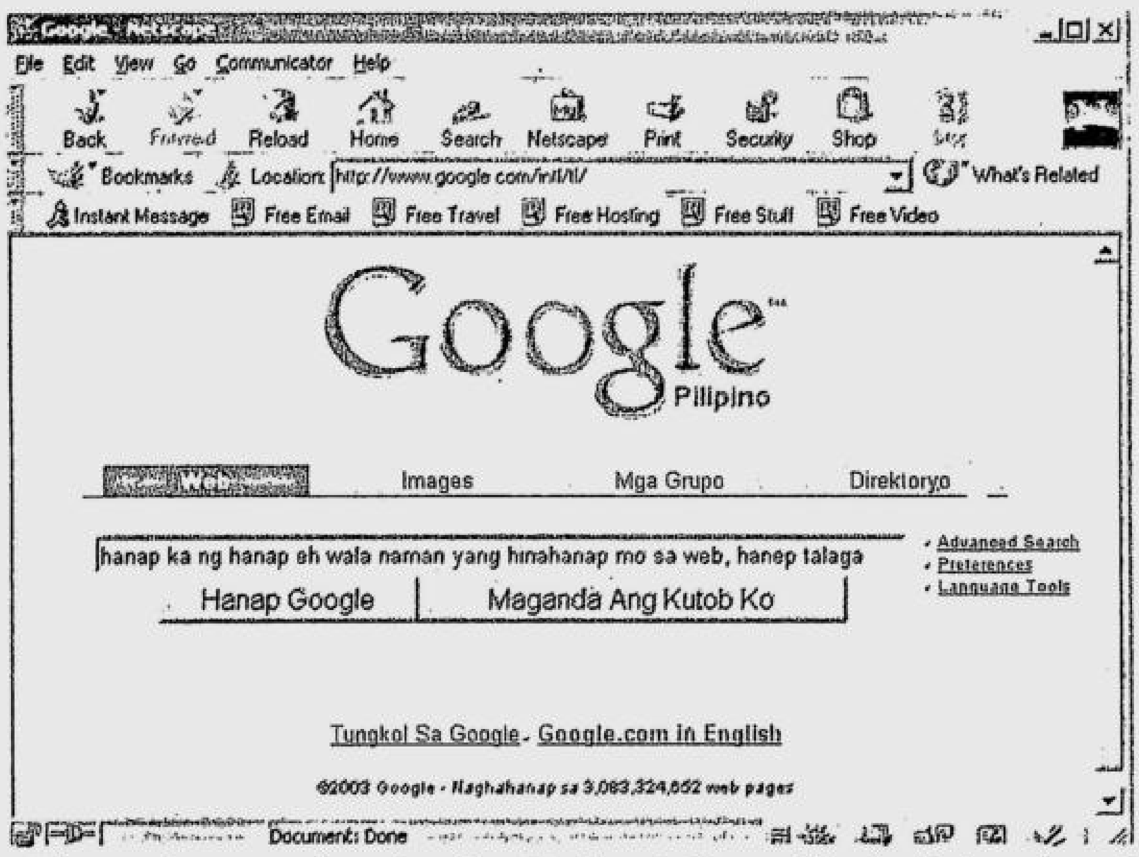
GOOGLE, the famous search engine, is now available in Filipino.

Aptly called "Google Pilipino," the localized version of the search engine literally translates some search button labels and terms into Filipino.

Search buttons such as "Search Google" and "I'm Feeeling Lucky" in the search parameters of the home page of the website have been substituted with "Hanap Google" and "Maganda ang Kutob Ko," respectively.

Other options have also been translated. "About Google" is now translated into "Tungkol sa Google" and "Make Google your Homepage" is now "Gawing Homepage and Google."

The search engine, however, failed to translate some words. There are apparently some exceptions when it comes to translating some English words into their Filipino equivalent, such as the words "Web" and "Images." Even more technical things like "Advanced Search," "Preferences" and "Language Tools" have been retained in English.



Location: http://www.google.com/intl/tl/

hanap ka ng hanap eh wala naman yang hinahanap mo sa web, hanep talaga

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Document: Done

When you input a word or group of words to search for, you will get a message in the vernacular such as: "Resultang 1 - 10 sa loob ng 399,000. Natapos sa 0.10 segundo."

The localized version of Google can be accessed at http://www.google.com/intl/tl/.

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State of information technology education in the Philippines

By Don Herana

IT'S school time again and I can't help but ask the question: What is the status of ICT education in the Philippines today?

More than a decade ago, if you ask high school graduate students what they want to pursue in college, a common answer was either Computer Science (which entails software programming) or Computer Engineering (a combination of computer hardware design and software programming) because both are perceived as in-demand courses back then. These courses, they hoped, would enable them to land a job in big companies here and abroad and reap a fat pay check while they're at it.

I guess one of the major differences happening in the Philippine ICT education scene now compared to years ago is that the student won't have to wait for a college education to acquire the basic skills in computer technology.

One of the main reasons I say this is that basic computer subjects are being taught in grade school at some educational institutions today. In fact, a nephew of mine who attended second grade in the previous school year had computer basics as one of his subjects. I kid you not. He was taught the basic functions of computers and knows the definitions of computer parts such as the floppy drive, mouse, keyboard, printer and monitor. You would be amazed how the kid welcomed the technology without much fuss.

There and then I realized that not only do the elementary school subjects of today teach kids not only how to read, write and do the math but also expose them to an important device they would inevitably use in the future: the PC. Indeed, elementary classrooms offering computer subjects as part of the curriculum will play a major role in fueling the drive of educating the young ones with learning skills using modern technologies as a basic tool.

Another difference is that it's apparent that the number of families which have access to a PC at home is also growing compared to a decade ago. The computer is fast becoming a common household appliance. Familiarization and self-study with the home computer will most likely give kids a good educational start. Computer education for the children through the home PC simplifies the learning curve. If the household doesn't have Internet access, then there are several software applications available at computer software stores with data, audio, video, pictures and animated graphics that they can use as a reference tool.

I suppose in getting acquainted with the PC, it makes sense that one would begin by tinkering with interactive computer games. Let's face it. More often than not, kids get a kick out of viewing animation play before their eyes and interacting with game commands and controls. But aside from appreciating the computer graphics in the computer gaming world there is the underlying truth that most electronic games teach kids strategies and planning skills that would be beneficial for their use later as they go on with life's challenges (save the violence.)

In this light, a point of concurrency will somehow coexist between the two learning grounds—school and home—that will proliferate the effect. At this stage, it's imperative that parents and teachers should realize the importance of equipping children with the right educational tools to cope with the challenge of the future.

Now, before we forget about the major educational institutions such as colleges and universities, here's my two cents' worth. The schools should be aware of the importance of investing on computer laboratories if they haven't done that yet or, if computer labs are already existing, continue upgrading the hardware setup, programming languages and software applications to build a strong ICT foundation and competently impart on college students the know-how to enable them to keep up with the fast-paced evolution of information and communications technology.

Another Makati-based Internet pornography operation shut down by NBI

ANOTHER operation selling Internet-based pornography in Makati has been shut down by the National Bureau of Investigation (NBI).

Similar to other operations closed down by the NBI this year, the establishment also provided interactive adult entertainment to people who subscribed to the service, according to NBI director Reynaldo Wycoco.

During a raid, the NBI caught some 20 to 30 Filipino women, many still in their teens, who had been recruited by the establishment. The NBI said that the Makati-based operation was owned by a foreigner.

The establishment was charging people $3 a minute to view the women, according to the NBI.

Erwin Lemuel G. Oliva

PeopleSoft scrambles for shares of JD Edwards

NEW YORK—Business software group PeopleSoft is scrambling for shares of rival JD Edwards in an effort to fend off an increasingly bitter takeover bid from sector giant Oracle.

The move by PeopleSoft, part of a $1.75-billion friendly bid for JD Edwards, came a day after Oracle boosted its bid for PeopleSoft by $1.2 billion to $6.3 billion, or $19.50 a share.

Analysts said Oracle and PeopleSoft were in a frantic battle for shares in the Silicon Valley dogfight that includes at least three lawsuits.

"The race is on," said Richard Williams, analyst with Summit Analytic Partners. "PeopleSoft is hoping it can gather up enough JD Edwards shares quickly because behind the scenes, Oracle is working fast to convince the large shareholders that its $6.3-billion, offer for PeopleSoft at $19.50 a share is the right price."

PeopleSoft revised and accelerated its offer for JD Edwards this week after the software giant Oracle Corp. launched a surprise, bitterly contested bid to take over PeopleSoft.

PeopleSoft has added a cash component to the terms of its deal with JD Edwards in hopes of avoiding a PeopleSoft shareholder vote and closing that merger more quickly.

PeopleSoft has accused Oracle of launching a sham offer to scupper the PeopleSoft takeover of JD Edwards.

Oracle announced this week it would sue PeopleSoft, accusing its board of failing to act in the shareholders' best interests and demanding it remove a "poison pill" threatening the acquisition.

Randy Weston, an analyst with AMR Research, said Oracle's chances of succeeding in the hostile bid have sharply improved with the sweetened deal.

Oracle's odds of success are "getting higher by the minute," he said. "If Oracle does indeed have institutional investors on board, there isn't a lot short of a court order that could stop this deal."

Weston said that for JD Edwards and its shareholders, "the attractiveness of a merger with PeopleSoft is disappearing quickly."

"While the cash helps, they still are getting 50 percent of the deal in stock—stock that is likely to drop if the Oracle deal fails," Weston added.

"The Oracle bid has also weakened PeopleSoft, leaving JD Edwards with a parent company that will have to drain a good portion of its cash reserves to complete the deal."

Meanwhile, analysts said a large number of Silicon Valley jobs could be cut if Oracle's hostile takeover bid for PeopleSoft succeeds, with as many as half of PeopleSoft's 8,180 employees on the line.

"This may be a good business play for Oracle, but it's not very good for the people involved," said Gib Dyer, analyst with Hakala Capital Management in San Francisco.

"If this deal goes through, you won't need both Oracle and PeopleSoft sales managers calling on the same customers any more."

Meanwhile, Connecticut authorities said they would file an antitrust lawsuit against Oracle to block its hostile bid to take over PeopleSoft. The suit being filed in the US District Court at Hartford, Connecticut, alleged the takeover would flout state and federal antitrust laws, and harm the US economy, consumers and competition, they said.

"We are assembling a powerful coalition of states and other consumers that will suffer the same unacceptable costs if this unlawful, anti-competitive takeover is permitted," Connecticut Attorney General Richard Blumenthal said in a statement. "The costs are huge and intolerable in money, time, human capital and system reliability now and going forward, for our consumers and economy."

"The takeover would cripple competition, threatening higher prices and lower quality, and cause terrible waste in the human and financial investments already made," Blumenthal said.

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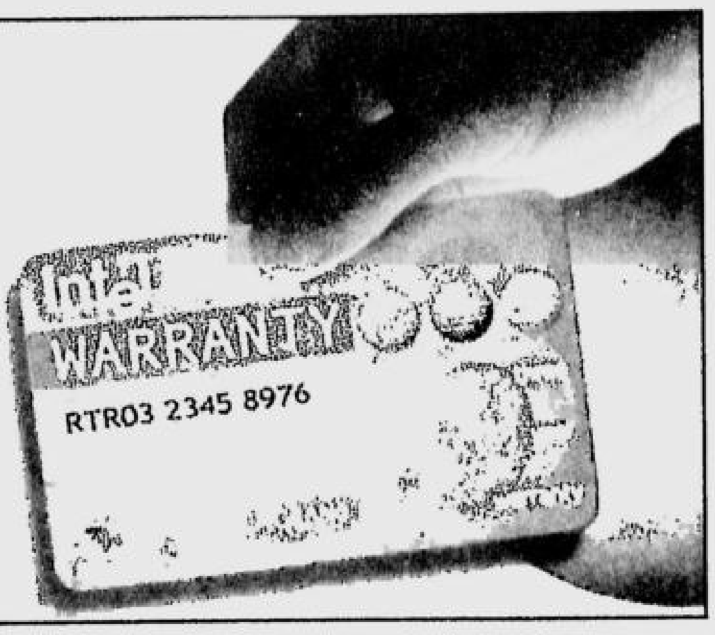

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Editor **Leo Magno**

Pinoymail founder quits, joins Sun Cellular team

By Erwin Lemuel G. Oliva

THE FOUNDER of a free Filipino web-based e-mail service has moved on to startup mobile phone operator Sun Cellular, dropping his job of running Pinoymail's day-to-day operations.

In an interview, Dominick Danao said that he still had a minority stake in Pinoymail but was set to relinquish being chair of the company's board of directors.

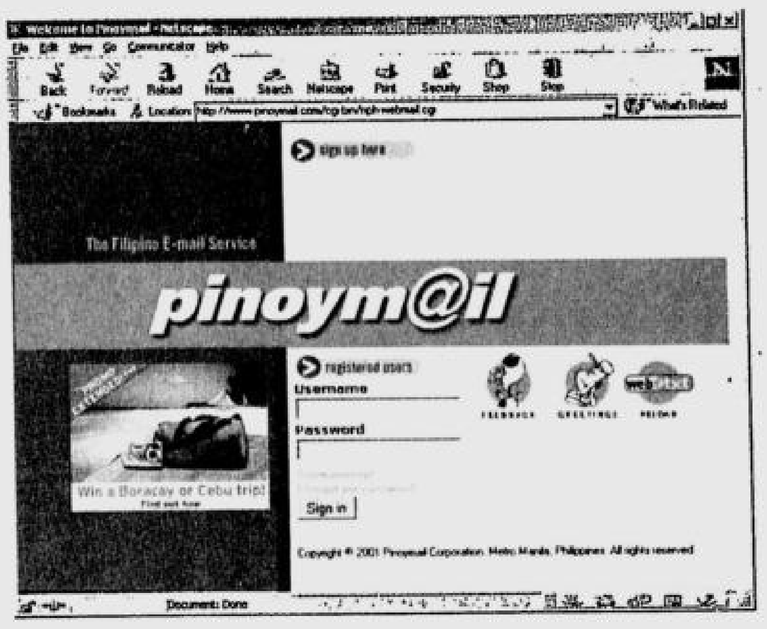
"I'm not yet looking at divesting from Pinoymail," he said.

Danao also said that Pinoymail would continue operating, and was not folding up, as some Philippine industry observers speculated. Danao cofounded Pinoymail in 1998 with several friends during the dotcom boom.

He became chief operating officer of Pinoymail after NewNet Holdings, led by mobile phone firm Smart Communications' founder, Orlando "Doy" Vea, bought into the firm in January 2000.

Danao is joining Sun Cellular as wireless data manager. The mobile phone operator is owned by the Philippine telecommunications firm Digitel, owned by the Gokongweis.

Pinoymail was among the few lucky Philippine dotcoms that managed to attract investors before the dotcom crash.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PLDT signs P400-M deal on e-commerce

By Joel D. Pinaroc

THE PHILIPPINE Long Distance Telephone Co. (PLDT) has signed a contract with online marketplace player BayanTrade for the procurement of P400 million worth of supplies to be electronically sourced from various local and international suppliers.

The contract, signed by PLDT president and CEO Manny Pangilinan, will allow the dominant carrier to use BayanTrade's electronic sourcing and procurement facility.

According to executives of BayanTrade, the contract will cover the period June 2003 to June 2004.

"The program will significantly reduce the company's purchasing expenses, and help us avail of BayanTrade's end-to-end procurement support as well as tap local, regional and global suppliers," said Susan Bartolome, head of PLDT's e-procurement division, in a statement.

The partnership is also reportedly long-term and will allow PLDT to trade with various companies that are registered members of BayanTrade, which currently has 250 buyers and 2,000 suppliers worldwide.

PLDT is the fourth company to subscribe to BayanTrade's e-sourcing services, joining the likes of Ayala Land Inc., Aboitiz Equity Ventures and the Manila Water Co.

According to BayanTrade president Dante Briones, PLDT can take advantage of online trading like other large, local enterprises now subscribed to BayanTrade.

"E-commerce continues to thrive in the Philippines, especially among large companies. These companies are saving on costs, they just don't advertise or hype the savings they get out of electronic trading," Briones said.

IT investments in Q1 reached P2.6B: DTI

By Erwin Lemuel G. Oliva

BOTH foreign and local companies have made a total of P2.6 billion worth of investments in information and communications technology (ICT) activities during the first quarter of 2003, a report from the Department of Trade and Industry indicated.

From January to March this year, ICT investments remained the biggest source of investments in the country, which totaled P12.2 billion, the report said.

Investments in telecommunications reached P1 billion, while ICT-related services and production of parts and accessories totaled P1.6 billion, the DTI report showed.

It was noted that investments in ICT represented a 240-percent increase from the same period last year. IT investments during the first quarter of 2002 only accounted for P700 million, the report said.

The report also noted that IT investments accounted for 40 percent of total foreign direct investments during the first quarter of this year.

The recent ICT investment figures were culled from four government investment promotion agencies, including the Board of Investments (BOI), the Philippine Economic Zone Authority (Peza), the Subic Bay Metropolitan Authority (SBMA) and the Clark Development Corp. (CDC).

Ninety-one percent of investments during the first quarter went through the BOI (P7.5 billion), and the rest from Peza (P3.6 billion), SBMA (P0.4 billion) and CDC (P0.6 billion).

The DTI has been pushing the country as the hub for IT-enabled services for more than a year.

Investments for the first quarter of 2003 were estimated to create a total of 20,613 jobs, or a 63-percent decrease from last year, the agency said.

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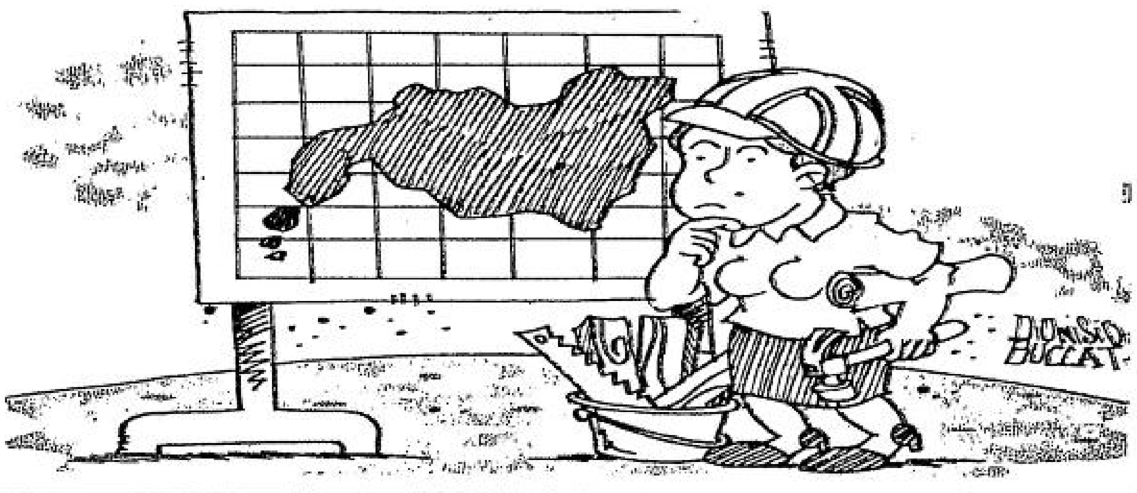
Six policies that can rebuild Mindanao

By Dennis M. Arroyo
Contributor



THIS piece concludes the discussion on the Mindanao Agenda. The Business Monday article last week explained the origins of the project, which was crafted by key development advocates in the region. This piece explains the policies they recommend for renewing Mindanao.

Settle political conflicts

Security is critical, so the government should finally resolve the Abu Sayyaf problem. It should fully implement the details of its peace package with the Moro National Liberation Front (MNLF). It must sustain its peace and development moves with the Moro Islamic Liberation Front (MILF).

At the same time, the state should promote a Peace Education Program and a Culture of Peace Fund to support the conciliatory actions of civil society groups.

The Lumads or Mindanao tribal Filipinos must be integrated into the development process. The state should prepare a comprehensive plan to address their concerns. It should review the contracts it entered which affect Lumad communities. The government should try to resolve, in each Mindanao province, at least one long-standing conflict concerning ancestral lands.

The government should create a special body to ensure the fast implementation of land-related reforms in Muslim and Lumad

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Who's to blame for flawed Comelec bid?

MAPPING THE FUTURE

By Manuel A. Alcuaz Jr.

THE COMELEC has been accused of a number of anomalies in the award of Phase II of its Modernization Project to Mega Pacific.

The questions that have been raised include:

1. Invitation to bid and Request for Proposal was distributed on Feb. 17, 2003, Mega Pacific was incorporated on Feb. 27, 2003

2. The Comelec, in its RFP, required bidders to submit financial statements for the past three years. It further required that interested bidders should have a track record of an IT project with a value of P100 million.

How can a company incorporated in February 2003 whose incorporators have no IT background meet the above mandatory requirements?

3. The Comelec RFP required that counting machines bid out should have been used in at least one political exercise with no less than 20 million voters.

The RFP also stated:

"In order to prove that the machines being offered are of acceptable quality and standard, the Bidders shall furnish documentary evidence that the Goods offered have been in production for five years and in the number of units of similar capacity; and

Failure of the Bidder to submit all the information required in this section shall be a ground for a disqualification of bid."

Some parties contend that the machine submitted by Mega Pacific for testing is only a prototype hence does not meet the above mandatory requirements.

4. The machines that were bid out were to be tested by DOST following very stringent requirements.

The Comelec Bid and Awards Committee reported that the machines of both bidders failed the mandatory requirement of an accuracy of 99.995 percent!

It said requirement was mandatory, how can an award be made to a failed bidder?

Furthermore, there are accusations that the machine submitted by Mega Pacific is a prototype and that it failed three times during harsh condition testing. And had to be revived by six Korean technicians.

Furthermore, only the slower machine proposed by Mega Pacific was tested. The faster machine was not available.

TIM the losing bidder initially failed the test because it submitted one of the machines used in the ARMM elections. A second test on a new machine was conducted but not included in the final report.

There are many other accusations about sloppy test procedures which reflect on the competence and integrity of DOST not of Comelec.

DOST should come out in the open and defend its reputation or clean up its house.

All of the above flaws call for a rebid to be conducted as quickly as possible. But I have grave doubts that a rebid will have much better results.

The Comelec can be faulted for not religiously following the law. RA No. 8436 provides for an Advisory Council made up of representatives of major IT organizations.

Unfortunately, the Comelec has invited the Advisory Council to meetings and meriendas but has not seriously tried to get the council's advice.

The real culprit in the flawed bid is the new Procurement Reform Law.

Congress speculated that the law would save the government at least P22 billion. Unfortunately, this will not be the result.

While hoped for savings will not materialize, the government will end up acquiring a lot of inferior goods, lprojects, and systems.

Section 32 of the law states:

For the procurement of goods and infrastructure projects, the BAC shall evaluate the financial component of the bids. The bids that passed the preliminary examination shall be ranked from lowest to highest in terms of their corresponding calculated prices.

The bid with the lowest calculated price shall be referred as the "Lowest Calculated Bid."

The law requires that the winner should be the bidder with the "Lowest Calculated Bid".

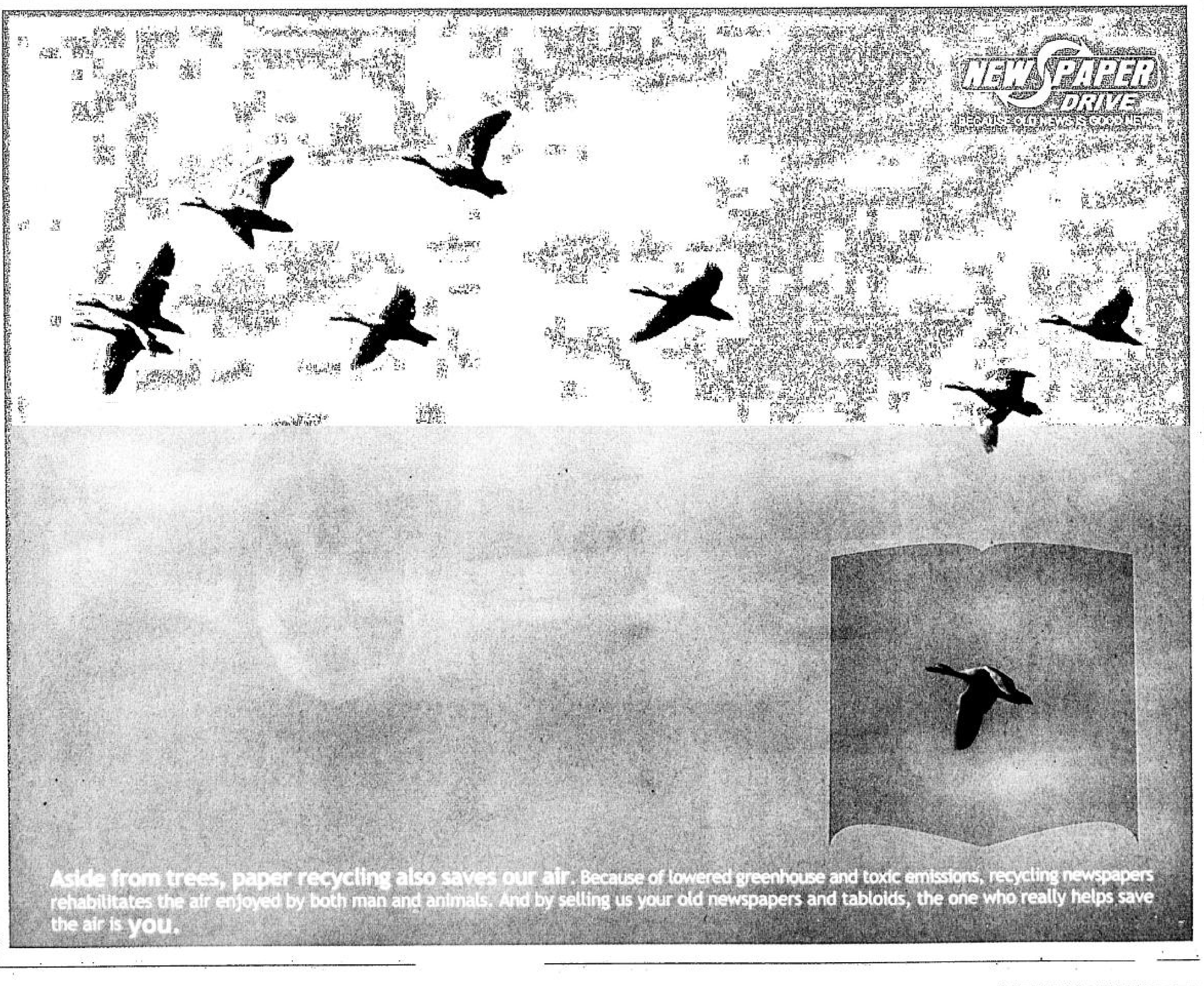
In the private sector, we understand that the lowest bid price is not always the optimal choice. There are other factors to be considered such as performance, capacity flexibility, reliability, maintainability, ease of use, vendor track record, financial stability, etc.

These are usually defined as desirable qualities and numerically scored by the technical committee and BAC (Bid and Awards Committee).

The law has eliminated all criteria in evaluation except price.

Bidders can be screened out by "mandatory" pass or fail criteria. Unfortunately,

WHO'S/ B2-4



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PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER
News that makes a difference

Increase revenue by cutting waste

By Christine S. Pardiñas,
Contributor, UP ISSI

GROWING YOUR BUSINESS

WASTE prevention may be the easiest among the other aspects of cost reduction, but it is not a one-shot thing either. It is a continuing, day-to-day task. Your key words here are "highest continuing savings." The way to do it is through creativity and a lot of cooperation from your employees.

Cost of goods sold

This is probably the ultimate concern in any business operation as this greatly affects the bottom-line. A lot of waste prevention ideas can be generated directly from the production line or even the service area:

1. Review your purchasing practices. Source for other suppliers where you can buy the right materials in the right quantity and at the lowest possible price. With the onset of globalization and fierce competition, a good number of such suppliers would be very willing to entertain your queries.

2 If you are the customer, negotiate with suppliers to use packaging for materials delivered in returnable containers. This means lower costs and less waste to be handled on your end.

3. Watch out for wasteful use of raw materials—poor cutting, excessive trimmings, defective materials and defective machines.

4. Keep an eye on idle workers, waiting time between production phases, doing rework on a defective item, excess people on the production line or service area.

5. Pay attention to wasteful use of energy e.g. idle machines left running and lights left on unnecessarily.

6. Get the best shipping and freight rates.

Office supplies and equipment

Service and manufacturing companies, share the eternal concern of saving on office supplies and equipment. Although this aspect may look trivial, adding their total costs for a year might take you by surprise. And it is always a good idea to start somewhere where the employees themselves are directly involved.

Any paper, especially office paper, is highly recyclable, but a lot gets wasted. Always try to use both sides of a sheet of paper when printing or writing. Scratch paper comes in handy for your internal documents like drafts and short-lived items such as meeting agendas or reminders.

To really save on paper, be sure to print only those you need to have a hard copy of. Edit on-screen instead of printing everything.

Omit cover sheets in faxes and transmittal report. Use a small stick-on note instead.

Reformat or reuse disks containing information that are very old and will no longer be used.

Purchase high quality supplies and equipment that are easy to repair. This will prevent frequent buying as well as minimize downtime when failure occurs.

If your budget permits, buy office supplies in bulk rather than in small quantities. Buying in bulk usually comes out cheaper especially when volume discounts are offered. However, avoid overstocking supplies that may become outdated and put all your savings to waste.

Use refillable pens and pencils, rechargeable batteries, solar calculators, tape dispensers. Bookstores now offer a wide selection of such items; just be patient and look around.

Re-ink printer ribbons or refill printer cartridges. There are already a number of shops offering such services at much lower prices and good quality.

Don't buy all the equipment you need. If these are used very seldom, rent.

Reuse envelopes, file folders and binders.

Buy used office furniture. Just like the *ukay-ukay*, there are also shops specializing in surplus office equipment and furniture at reasonable prices. All you need is a keen eye and good negotiation skills to get a good deal.

Packaging strategies

In most of the products we buy, packaging contributes significantly to cost. From this point, competitive pricing can be achieved by just looking into your current packaging strategies and save on the total manufacturing costs.

Eliminate corrugated containers and replace with less-waste options such as reusable containers. Durable, reusable containers may cost more initially, but can be used for a longer time, thus resulting in long-term savings.

Choose lighter and less bulky packaging. This reduces the materials used and cuts costs associated with storing and transporting products.

Ship by bulk. Look for packaging that can be eliminated for bulk items, then offer volume discounts to your customers.

Change packaging designs. Go minimal. This improves efficiency, saves your money and resources. Some companies now use stretch wrap to secure products in a pallet instead of using corrugated boxes.

For really unavoidable used packaging materials, be sure to keep them clean when storing to increase recyclability.

Some business applications

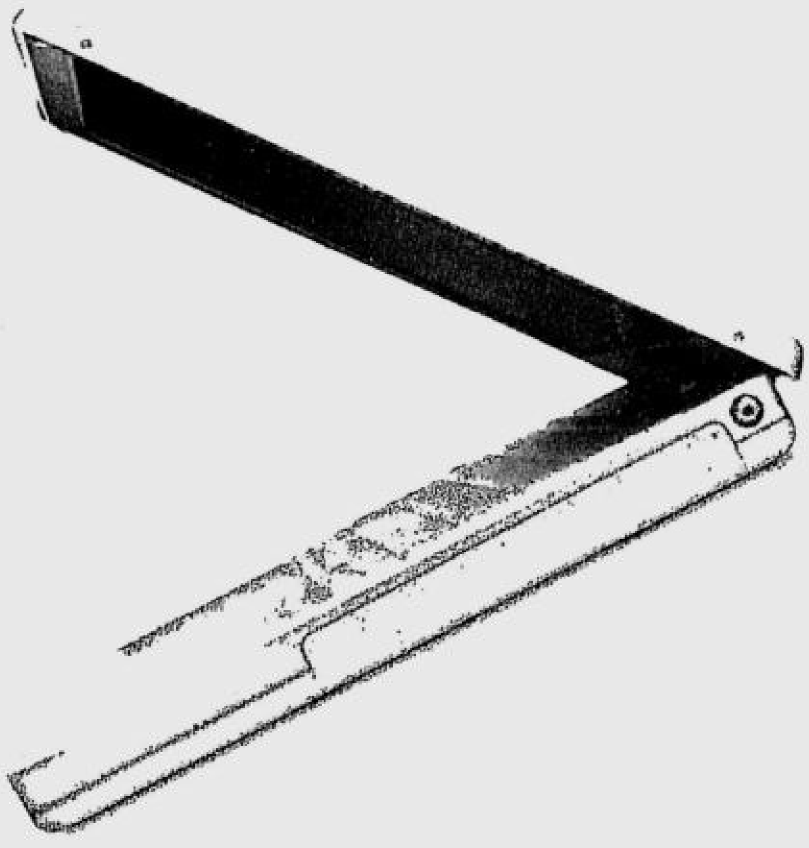
Soap making/ candle making

Waste prevention can be achieved from start to finish of the production process. You should be extra careful in following the proper proportions in mixing of ingredients to avoid rejects. Wastage can likewise be avoided during cutting by following standards set to avoid excessive trimmings. A lot of rejects are generated in such businesses mainly from substandard output as a result of poor cutting.

Garments/tailoring and dressmaking

Pattern making is a crucial factor in these businesses since styles and cutting are based on such patterns. The rest of the processes—edging, sewing, trimming, pressing—will then depend on the cut materials. It is therefore important that machines are kept in very

INCREASE/ B2-4



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Five professions pledge to stick to code of ethics

RESPONSIBLE CITIZENSHIP
DIONISO BUCCAT III

THERE are are accountants that maintain two books for different purposes—one to dodge taxes and the other reflecting the true financial picture.

There are engineers and architects who compromise design and quality for commissions from suppliers. There are "doctors" who sell their medical samples.

They are all professionals.

There are college "graduates" who use fake diplomas and school transcript of records.

There are examinees of professional licensure exams who fall prey to syndicates and review centers who offer "guaranteed" test results.

They are would-be professionals.

Everyday, all of us are exposed to the services and products that professionals provide. From dental checkups and hospital care to building houses, education for our children and taking passenger ships, all of these are done by professionals.

There are 42 of these professions which are regulated by the Professional regulation Commission (PRC), from doctors and nurses, engineers, master plumbers, teachers, foresters, librarians, veterinarians, nutritionists and more.

Only the law profession, which is regulated by the Supreme Court, is not under the ambit of PRC.

There are 2.3 million registered professionals under PRC, and over 200,000 aspire to become professionals every year who take various professionals licensure examinations. Because of their sheer size in number and how they impact on the lives of all, the professionals are now the target of a special campaign towards responsible citizenship.

PRC, together with the International Solidarity for Asia, an international institution dedicated to advocate good governance in local and national governments, and in corporations and professionals are bonding together to allow responsible citizenship to take root in each of the professions.

What makes a citizen responsible?

In his book Responsible Citizenship II, Jesus P. Estanislao, ISA chair, said that it demands every Filipino to equip himself with skills and knowhow, acquire knowledge and a culture enriched by proper values and nurture a positive outlook to work and life—all for the common good especially for the poor. Hence, a person for others.

"The skills of our professionals are undeniably outstanding and unquestionable. But there is an emerging need for a code of ethics across all professions for two main reasons.

First, we have to conform to international standards of professional practice especially that many of our professionals find their work place abroad. We have to benchmark our practice with the best practices of other countries.

Second, there is crying need to ensure the ethical conduct of professionals, from compliance with established rules and regulations to the preservation of professional integrity," Antonieta Fortuna-Ibe, PRC chair, said.

Pledge to be responsible

Last June 18, during the 30th Anniversary of the PRC, the Commission and ISA signed a Memorandum of Agreement on responsible citizenship initially for five professions : medical doctors, marine deck and engine officers, nurses and accounts.

Representing these professions are the Philippine Medical Association, the Masters and Mates Association of the Philippines, Marine Engine Officers Association of the Philippines, the Philippine Nursing Association and the Philippine Institute of Certified Public Accountants.

The program will cover four areas of concern: the identification of international and local best practices, eradication of graft and corruption in the profession, enforcement of a code of ethics, and the professions' contributions to national development.

There are critics to good governance and responsible citizenship campaigns that these initiatives are mere motherhood statements and unrealizable objectives. Perhaps the approach to focusing on the professions can bring these objectives right to the ground where real gains may be achieved. After, we deal with these professionals daily in almost all facets of our life.

Estanislao said meeting the demands for responsible citizenship would not be easy. "But we cannot shirk them if we are to be Filipinos who will begin to build, at long last, a great nation, a country we can all be proud of," he said in his book.

Increase your venture's . . .

From page B2-3

good condition to avoid breakdown and eliminate rejects and ensure that materials are always available. A lot of scrap fabric is generated from these businesses, which are good sources for recycling ideas.

Supermarkets/ convenience stores/ sari-sari stores

Some competitive advantages of these stores over the others can be the selection of merchandise for sale, suppliers, product display and prices. Waste prevention can be done mainly by buying in bulk (to get good prices), keeping small inventory of slow-moving items, and keeping check on the cost of operations (especially for those 24-hour stores).

Whatever the nature of the manufacturing or service companies, the important thing to remember is to stick to the budgets—avoid off-sized products and rejects, avoid unnecessary processes—to be able to adhere to the product costing. By so doing, you can achieve the ultimate objective of your waste prevention efforts—savings.

And lastly, follow-up! There is no end to discovering and reducing waste. Assign responsibilities to your employees. This is not a one-man challenge, everybody should be involved. And every effort should be properly appreciated and recognized.

Program check

The following checklist can be used as reference to determine how effective your Waste Prevention Program is:

- Have you pinpointed all high or unusual levels of unnecessary costs and losses?
- Are you examining all possibilities for salvaging and recycling?
- Have you established standards and safeguards against disguising waste?
- Do you maintain separate records to report losses due to wastage?
- Have you established channels for a continuing flow of new ideas for the program?
- Is your Waste Prevention Program a day-to-day, continuing effort?

Waste reduction is only one of the topics to be discussed in the Production Management (ProdMan) Course which will run starting July 5 at the UP Institute for Small-Scale Industries. For inquiries, call Ms. Blessie Clerigo at Tel. 928-7076 or e-mail info.issi@up.edu.ph.

"Growing Your Business" is a weekly series for growth-oriented small enterprises who need guidance in their expansion and growth stages. It is a service to the SME community by the UP Institute for Small-Scale Industries (UP ISSI).

Six policies that can rebuild . . .

From page B2-1

communities.

Qualified Muslims and Lumads should be appointed to key government positions.

Modernize agriculture

The lack of infrastructure must be addressed. This entails the proper budget allocation for critical infrastructure projects, including high-impact and damaged facilities. Most vital are rural infrastructure to support production and marketing.

Cash support is needed for pre-construction activities. The local governments should be assisted so that they can prepare better feasibility studies.

The funds for research and development for Mindanao agriculture must be hiked. The new law for modernizing agriculture should be strictly implemented. There should be more trade attaches to ensure markets for the produce of Mindanao.

The Coco Levy issue must be resolved, and a substantial share of the said funds should be given to Mindanao coconut farmers.

Land reform and its support services should be fast-tracked. A national land use code should be passed to halt the widespread conversion of agricultural into residential land. At the same time, the state should review the agrarian reform program to check its effects on productivity. There should be more Debt-for-Nature swap projects to address the denudation of Mindanao's forests. The state must issue clear policy statements and codify laws on mining, forestry, and other forms of resource extraction.

Promote shipping and trade

Shipping to and from Mindanao is vital. As such, shipping costs should be cut by encouraging competition in port operations. The port authority's functions of regulation and operation should be separated. It is also time to explore the option of privatizing and localizing port operations in Mindanao.

Passenger facilities in the Southern Mindanao ports should be upgraded. Inactive air and sea routes should be resumed. Local fishery ordinances for municipal and coastal waters should be passed. As regards international fishing, the Philippines should ratify multilateral conference agreements. The country should extend her uniform port tariff arrangements with Brunei and Indonesia. She should also forge bilateral fishing agreements with the nations that occupy the Pacific Ocean.

Coordinate with Asean

Mindanao, and the Autonomous Region of Muslim Mindanao (ARMM) in particular, can benefit much from economic dynamism in the East Asean Growth Area (EAGA). The said zone comprises Brunei, Indonesia, Malaysia, and the Philippines (BIMP).

Hence, the national government must ensure funds for the agencies connected with BIMP-EAGA. The rules and regulations over the zone must be harmonized. The state should promote joint border security operations in the member countries, so as to fight illegal activities like smuggling. Tourism destinations and eco-tourism sites should be developed. Mindanao should take advantage of intra-EAGA tourism.

As regards industry, the government should expand access to research and development programs so as to hike productivity. The state should sustain programs that support small and medium enterprises (SMEs) in Mindanao. A helpful step is the establishment of a multi-sectoral Mindanao design center.

Teach Mindanao's perspective

Education is a critical hub of Mindanao's development. The agenda calls for the implementation of the Comprehensive Mindanao Education Program. The government must ensure the timely release of funds for the Mindanao Basic Education Development Project.

The curriculum should contain Mindanao's history, as written from a Mindanaoan perspective. And Congress should automatically allocate a budget for scholarship grants and skills training programs, especially for Muslim and Lumad Filipinos. The advocates suggest affirmative action for secondary schools in the ARMM. *Comments to <darroyo@philonline.com>*

Whose to blame for flawed . . .

From page B2-

"mandatory" requirements are relative.

Those who are close to the agency just lie thru their teeth (or word processors). Unfortunately, honest bidders who could offer bids more advantageous to government are discouraged from participating. Or eliminated by arbitrary pass or fail requirements

In the Comelec Modernization Project bid, 57 prospective bidders bought bid documents.

But only one or two bidders qualified for each of the three bid phases.

The P22 billion savings that Congress had hoped for could have come from bidders that will be discouraged or eliminated by sometimes arbitrary and/or useless mandatory requirements.

The dysfunctional effects of the Procurement Reform Law are illustrated by the mandatory requirement, "that the counting machine should have been used in a prior political exercise with at least 20 million voters and that said machine should have been in production for at least five years."

These requirements eliminated Japanese bidders. Unfortunately, Japanese manufacturers are world leaders in OMR technology.

Prior to the flawed Procurement Reform Law this would be a desirable requirement and bidders would get points for compliance. Those with 20 million voter experience would get 100 percent of the relevant points. While someone with experience with say two elections with 10 million voters could get less points but not be eliminated.

Unfortunately, this requirement was ill conceived. It does not matter whether a machine was used in an election with 20 million voters or with 2,000 voters!

Each machine in the 2004 Election will be counting only 2,000 voters.

What Comelec should have looked for is project management and operational experience in a large election. It is people who need that experience not the machines.

The requirement for a machine that has been in production for five does not jive with the usual Comelec techno bias. A number of commissioners have complained about RA8476 specifying OMR technology when they wanted to fly off in new technology directions like Online Touch Screen Voting Machines.

Similarly, the accuracy requirement of 99.995 percent or higher should have been desirable rather than mandatory.

Bidders who did not reach desired limit would get lower points, not be eliminated outright.

Although, I have some disagreements with Comelec, I feel bad for Chairman Abalos and his team. They are between the devil and the deep blue sea. If they ignore the obvious failure of both bidders of the mandatory RFP requirements they will continue to be roasted in public. If they adhere to their own RFP's mandatory requirements they would have a failed bid.

While I must place the blame for the flawed bid on the new Procurement Reform Law. I still have some disagreements with Comelec.

Like Gus Lagman and Winnie Monsod I think that spending P1 billion of the people's money to experiment on biometric photo and fingerprint technologies is a waste of money.

The objective should not be "one citizen one registration," it should be "one citizen one vote." The latter is very inexpensively achieved by using indelible ink for thumb marks.

I also think that spending P300 million to hasten the national canvassing by a few days is a waste of money.

If the Comelec gives major parties and the civic organizations like Namfrel, soft copies (diskettes) of precinct counts, there could be many quick count completed a day after election day.

The executive and congress should wake up and remedy the critical flaws in the Procurement Reform Law before it creates more havoc in government procurements. *(The author is president of Systems Science Consult Inc. Feedback at mapsec@globenet.com.ph)*

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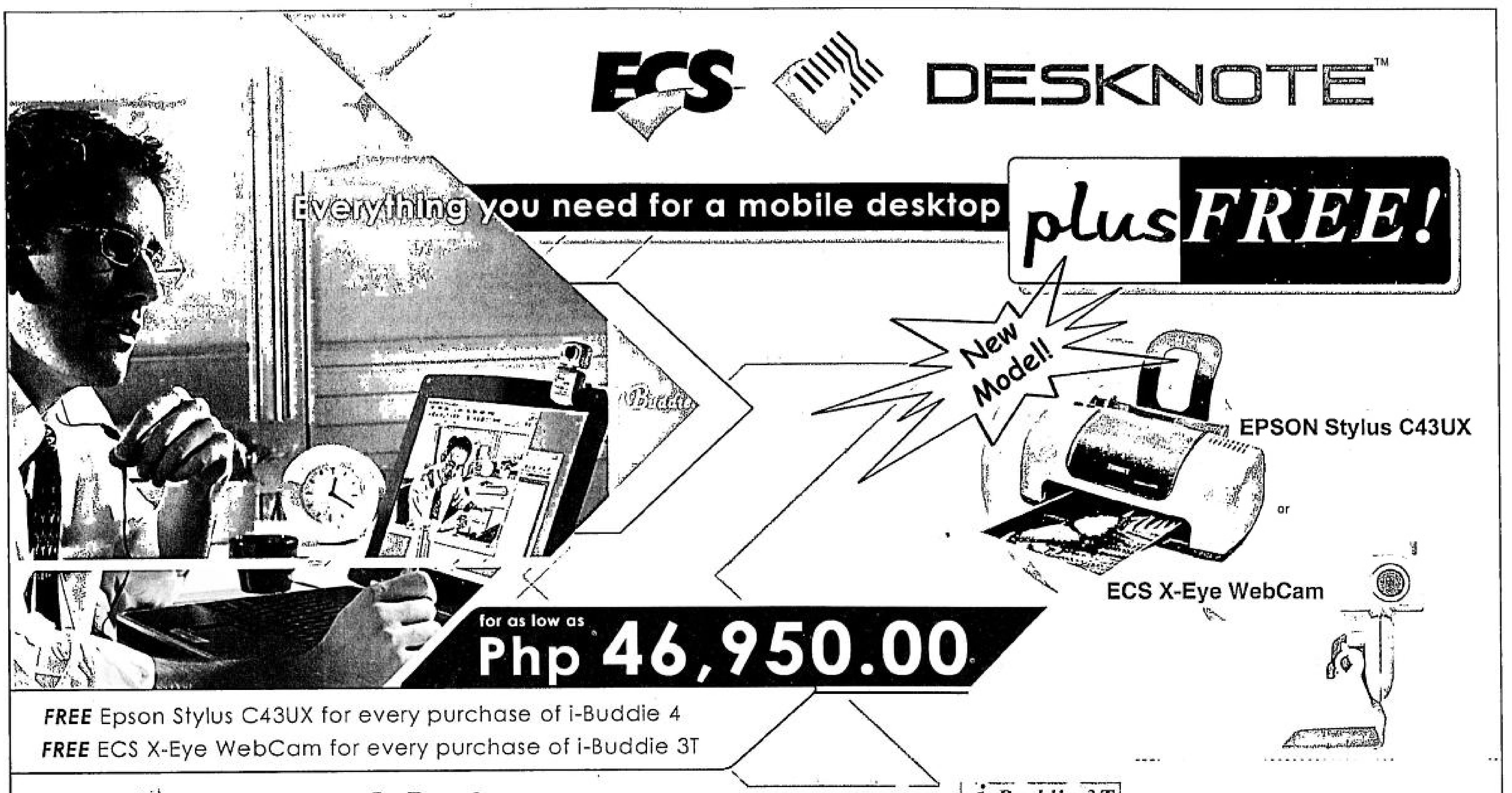

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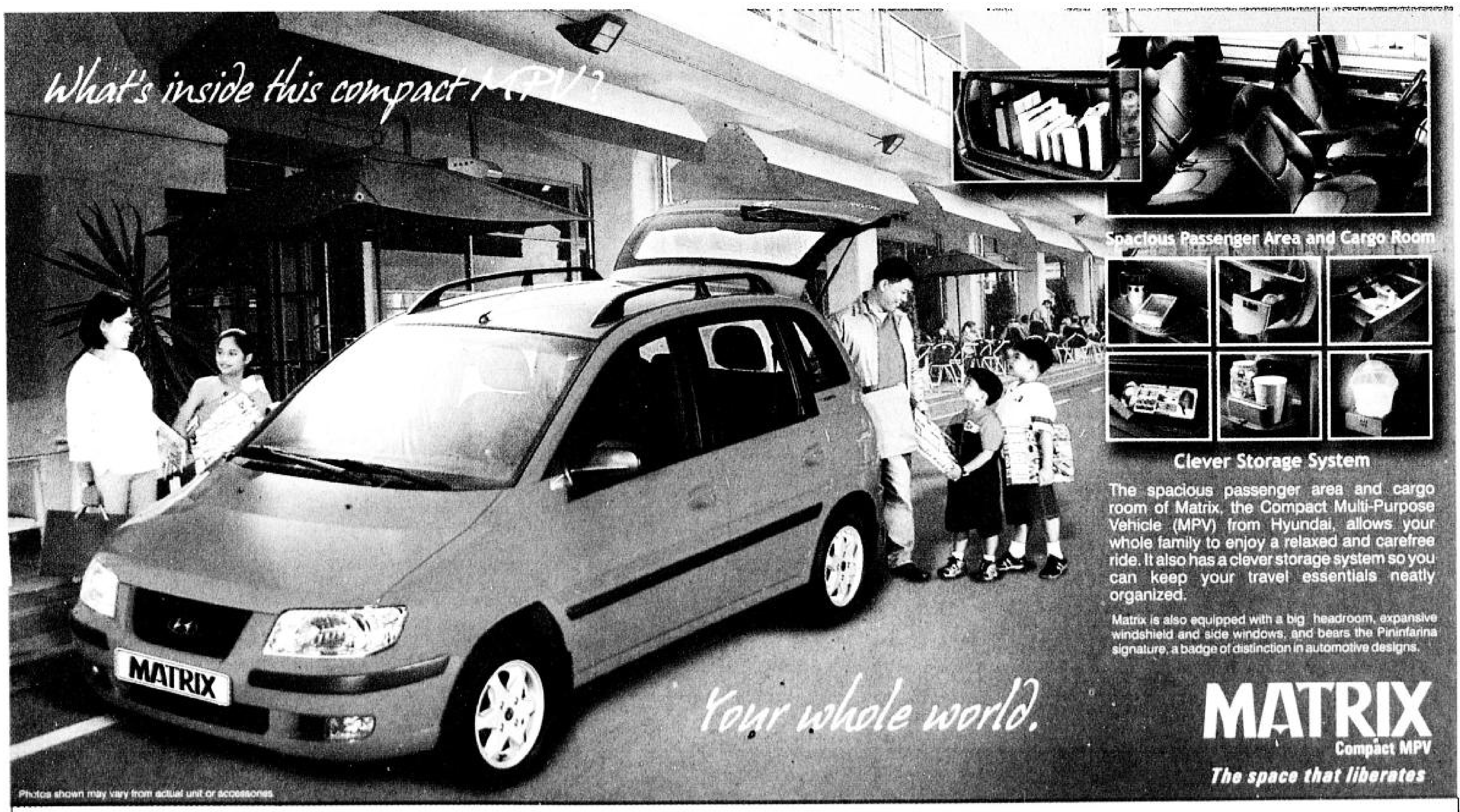

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Editor **Aries Espinosa**

IBM hosts computer workshop for the blind

IBM Philippines and Resources for the Blind (RBI) make it possible for the visually challenged to experience the world of information technology.

For the third consecutive year, IBM Philippines hosted "Computer Eyes: The Third National Computer Camp for Blind Students" which include 20 blind participants from all over the country. This is a joint project of the Nippon-Overbrook Foundation, IBM Philippines and RBI.

Present during the launch of the workshop on May 19 were IBM Philippines country manager Joaquin Quintos IV, RBI director Randy Weisser, and Department of Education director for the Bureau of Elementary Education Dr. Teresita Inciong. Blind achievers gave inspiring speeches led by NCWDP deputy director Mateo Lee and Roden Zalameda, grand prize winner of the Information Search Contest and third prize winner of Web Developing in the Asia Pacific Economic Conference in IT for Persons with Disabilities held in Seoul, Korea.

The two-week workshop enabled blind students to use the computer by listening to the synthesized voice commands. Instead of using a mouse, they would have to master the keyboard commands to be able to follow the menu. Commands, menus, and icons are translated into sound by using innovative screen-reader applications such as Jaws.

The workshop focused on subjects such as word processing, e-mail, and surfing the Internet. It even tackled Web publishing as each student was taught to design, build, and upload his or her own personal website.

The instructors for the workshop were similarly visually challenged individuals who made a difference in their lives led by Antonio Llanes, Lorena Acula, a graduate of AB English from the Philippine Christian University, and Mabelle Gaerlan, A BS Psychology graduate from Trinity College.

Computer Eyes lasted until May 30.

WELCOME
MMPC-Dealers
ruck and Bus Conferenc

MMPC-MFTBC CONTRACT SIGNING

Mitsubishi Fuso Truck and Bus Corp (MFTBC) spun off from Mitsubishi Motors Corp. early this year to enable them to focus on their respective models and at the same time efficiently respond to customer and market needs. And just recently, Mitsubishi Motors Philippines Corp. inked an agreement with the newly organized Mitsubishi Fuso Truck and Bus Corp. This arrangement allows MFTBC to supply completely knock down and built up trucks and buses to MMPC, which would allow the latter to distribute the vehicles through its franchise dealers. MMPC president and CEO Teruhiko Shibata said consumers would benefit most from this new set-up through competitive pricing and useful technologies in its truck and bus line. Shown is (seated left) Teruhiko Shibata with Atsushi Sakai, MFTBC general manager. Standing from left are Romy Espiritu, senior manager for trucks and bus, Mark Medina, AVP for customer service, Arnaldo Janolo, AVP for vehicle sales, Kinya Nakano, manager, MMC, Melchor Dizon, SVP for marketing, Susumu Kifune, EVP for finance and treasury, Yoshiaki Ichimura, SEVP for marketing, and Toshiro Ueno, manager of Nissho Iwai Corp.

Free Nokia 6610 cellphones daily from MasterCard

MasterCard, the world's leading payment card brand, is giving away a Nokia 6610 everyday from May 16 to June 15, 2003. This Nokia 6610 giveaway is an exciting component of MasterCard's latest nationwide promotion, the MasterCard Priceless Desires.

Use your MasterCard and MasterCard Electronic cards to purchase items worth at least P1,000 in a single receipt. Then, call the MasterCard Promo telephone numbers for Metro Manila or provincial cities and register the required MasterCard purchase information contained in your sales slips. For Metro Manila MasterCard cardholders, call 689-1000 or 914-1100; for provincial MasterCard cardholders, call 1-800-10-7-250-000.

Once your phone enrollment is successfully completed, electronic raffle number(s) will be assigned to you, making you eligible to win a Nokia 6610. Daily winners will be drawn on the following dates: May 27 (for May 16-23 entries); June 3 (for May 24-30 entries); June 10 (for May 31-June 6 entries); and June 20 (for June 7-15 entries).

Drawn entries must first successfully complete the validation process before they can claim their prize. Metro Manila lucky winners may claim their prize at the IISA office, 5B Strata 100 Bldg., Emerald Ave., Ortigas Center, Pasig City. Prizes of winners outside Metro Manila, meanwhile, will be sent to the cardholder's mailing address via registered mail.

This is your chance to own a Nokia 6610 and enjoy the enhanced MMS capabilities, full color graphics, polyphonic ringing tones, GPRS Internet service, built-in stereo FM radio, and a host of other advanced features of one of the hottest new phones in the market.

One grand shopping spree day!

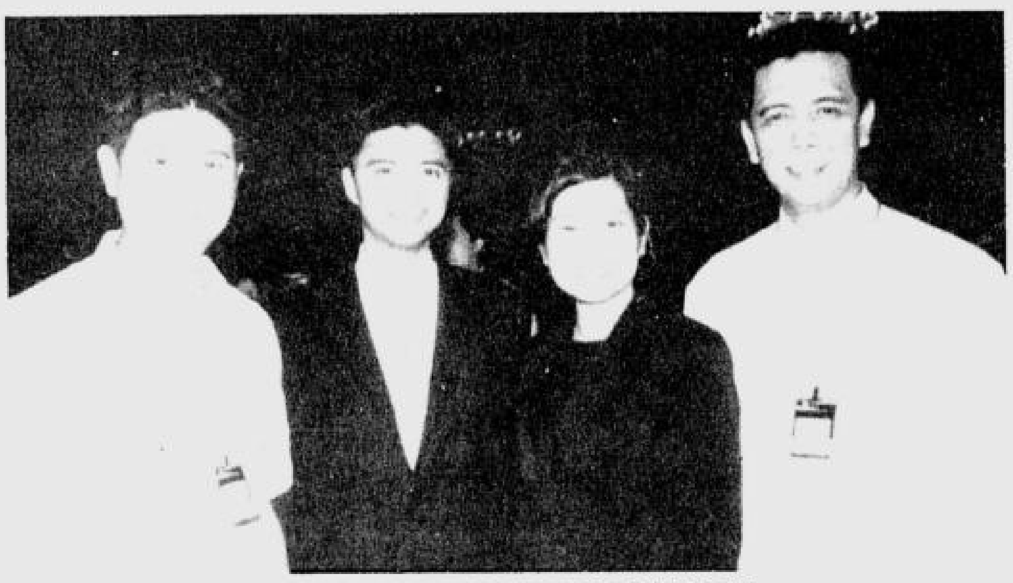
Continue using your MasterCard card and enroll your purchases because you just might win in the Priceless Desires Grand Raffle Draw, with P250,000 cash credits to be given away in a one-day shopping spree!

Every P1,000 minimum amount charged to your MasterCard or MasterCard Electronic credit card from May 16 to August 12, 2003 qualifies you to join the Priceless Desires promotion. Call up the MasterCard Promo toll-free numbers to enroll the information contained in your sales slips.

Deadline for the phone-in enrollment is on August 15, 2003. Five (5) winners will be drawn to each receive P250,000 cash-credits. Winners may claim their prize only at the MasterCard International office, Rm. 904 Tower One & Exchange Plaza, Ayala Triangle, Ayala Ave., Makati City. Travel arrangements for winners outside Metro Manila shall be covered by MasterCard International.

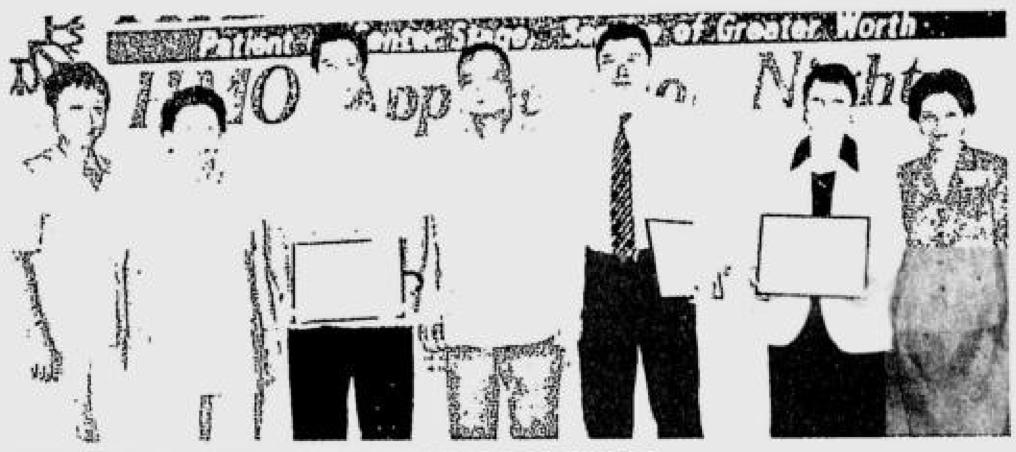
Each winner must bring along three (3) persons, either friends or family members, to partake in the spending spree during the predetermined shopping date, subject to a minimum of P20,000 of the shopping spree winnings assigned to each companion. A special credit card loaded with the allocated cash credits will be assigned to the winners and their selected companions to be spent in one shopping day only.

These cash credits may only be spent in one of the five (5) partner malls for this MasterCard promotion, namely: Alabang Town Center, Festival Mall, Glorietta 4 Ayala Center, Shangri-La Plaza and The Podium.



INQ7.NET EXECUTIVE AT MICROSOFT 2003 LAUNCH

Microsoft and INQ7.NET executives are shown all smiles at the Microsoft Windows Server 2003 launch held recently at the Rizal Ballroom of the Makati Shangri-La Hotel. From left, are Paolo Prieto, INQ7.NET CEO, Mark Yambot, Microsoft Philippines central marketing organization director, Mae Rivera, marketing communications manager, and Mon Lizardo, INQ7.NET VP for business and linkages. INQ7 was a platinum sponsor of the launch.



THE MEDICAL CITY HONORS HMO PARTNERS

The Medical City (TMC) top officials pose with the top awardees during the first Health Maintenance Organization (HMO) Appreciation Night. Medicard won The New Medical City Award, Philamcare bagged The Chairman's Award, and Pryce Care garnered The President's Award. The event was held to honor the HMOs, TMC's partners in providing health services for their patients. Shown are (from left) Virginia B. Alano, TMC vice president for patient services, Benita J. Macalagay, TMC vice president for business, Luis Montoya, general manager, Medicard, Dr. Alfredo RA Bengzon, TMC president and CEO, Mario Silos, president, Pryce Care, Dr. Erlinda L. Tiuseco, SVP and medical director, Philamcare, and Dr. Mediadora C. Saniel, TMC head of medical staff.

Jollibee chicken meals from Touch Mobile

TOUCH Mobile continues to be the GSM brand that provides the best value today. With its SIM pack priced at only P140, subscribers are in for another value-added surprise as Touch Mobile teams up anew with Jollibee for its latest promotional tie-up.

Under the promo, which runs from June 1 to July 15, buyers of Touch Mobile SIM packs are entitled to a free Jollibee Chickenjoy meal consisting of one-piece chicken, rice, gravy, and a regular soft drink.

A day after a Touch Mobile SIM pack buyer activates his SIM by dialing 802, he will receive a system-generated text message informing him that he can join the promo at all Jollibee stores nationwide.

To claim his free meal, he simply visits any Jollibee outlet, presents the complete text message received, and surrenders the plastic SIM housing from his Touch Mobile SIM card.

This is Touch Mobile's second promotional tie-up this year with the country's leading fastfood chain. The partnership has been proven ideal as both Touch Mobile and Jollibee have the same family-centric broad-market brand character, are nationwide in reach, and provide the best value for customers' money.

In Drypers Cool World, babies feel 'presko'

SOMETHING cool is happening at the malls. Drypers Wee Wee Dry, the newest diaper to hit the country, is breezing into your favorite malls in a big way and babies, mommies and daddies are in for a cool and presko experience like no other. Drypers Wee Wee Dry recently launched a cool and unique activity at the malls dubbed "Drypers Cool World: Where Babies Feel Presko". Drypers Cool World tours major malls around Metro Manila and key cities nationwide to spread the cool, comfortable and presko world of Drypers Wee Wee Dry diapers.

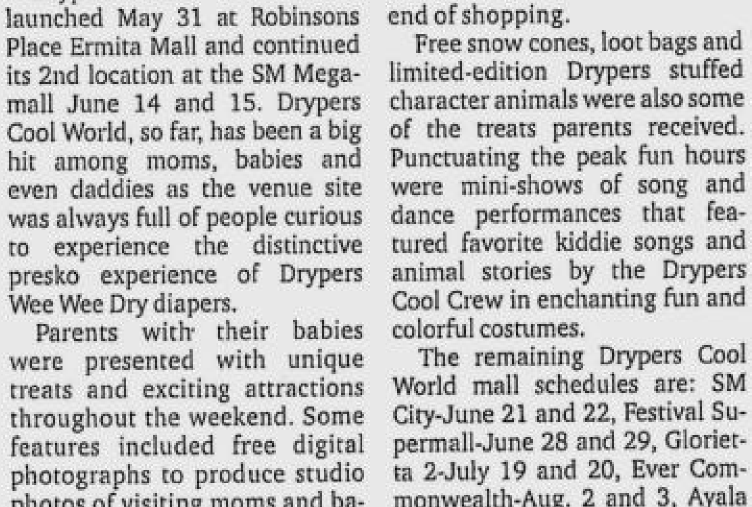
Drypers Cool World was launched May 31 at Robinsons Place Ermita Mall and continued its 2nd location at the SM Megamall June 14 and 15. Drypers Cool World, so far, has been a big hit among moms, babies and even daddies as the venue site was always full of people curious to experience the distinctive presko experience of Drypers Wee Wee Dry diapers.

Parents with their babies were presented with unique treats and exciting attractions throughout the weekend. Some features included free digital photographs to produce studio photos of visiting moms and babies. Mothers who buy Drypers get a free digital photo. Numerous cute photographs of babies were shown and displayed on a Drypers Baby Brag Wall saying "Look who's feeling Drypers Presko now!"

Other attractions included a fun, safe and colorful romp area where babies enjoyed Drypers Cool World's amusement and playfulness. The kiddie favorite was the carousel, which seemed to run non-stop and never ran out of willing baby passengers. Babies were invited to freshen up and change their diapers in the "Feel Presko Changing Station" where babies were allowed to try the Drypers presko experience for free. For the shopaholics, a kiddie fashion corner was a treat, where the latest cool fashion trends were made available for a full weekend of shopping.

Free snow cones, loot bags and limited-edition Drypers stuffed character animals were also some of the treats parents received. Punctuating the peak fun hours were mini-shows of song and dance performances that featured favorite kiddie songs and animal stories by the Drypers Cool Crew in enchanting fun and colorful costumes.

The remaining Drypers Cool World mall schedules are: SM City-June 21 and 22, Festival Supermall-June 28 and 29, Glorietta 2-July 19 and 20, Ever Commonwealth-Aug. 2 and 3, Ayala Town Center-Aug. 16 and 17, Robinsons Pampanga-Aug. 30 and 31, Citimall Batangas-Sept. 13 and 14, SM Cebu-Oct. 4 and 5, and at Gaisano Bacolod-Oct. 18 and 19.



AT THE Changing Station where babies felt the 'presko' experience of Drypers Wee Wee Dry diapers.

Bits & Clips

1-year painting course

REGISTRATION is ongoing for a year-long course in painting and drawing, with focus on still life, portrait, caricature and figure painting and fashion illustration. Classes will start on the 3rd week of June at the Positivism Art Gallery, Enterprise Plaza, 1429 Pablo Ocampo Street, San Antonio Village, Makati City. The program is composed of 40 lessons, once a week for two hours, which will introduce participants to the use of pencil, charcoal, watercolor, oil pastel, acrylic, and mixed media. Participants must be 13 years old and above and every class is limited to 10 students. Positivism exponent and painter ER Tagle will conduct the art program together with his artist-friends. An Alay Sining certificate will be awarded during the exhibit of the best works of the participants at the end of the program. For inquiries, call PAG at 899-6358 or 816-0904 and 0917-9726223.

Pria inducts officers

THE PHILIPPINE Rubber Industries Association Inc. (Pria) holds its 24th anniversary and 2003-2004 induction of officers and directors on June 23 at the Wack Wack Golf & Country Club. Energy Secretary Vincent S. Perez Jr. is the guest speaker and inducting officer. The newly elected officers and directors are: Elpidio Carlota, president, Kwan Ming Dee, executive vice president, Lucio J. Tan, VP tires and tubes sector, Charles Tiu, VP footwear sector, Andrew Escolar, VP automotive and industrial sector, Enrique Lim, VP latex products and others, Brigido Ong, corporate secretary, Marina Chua, treasurer, Josefina Ladao, auditor, Dang Sabanal, public relations officer, and directors Pablito Chua, Basilisa Ho, Alfredo de Leon, Johnny Chua, and Yolanda Almacen.

June at Merk's

MERK'S Bar Bistro continues to deliver the good times with superb entertainment. All roads lead to Merk's on June 23 with "2 Tenors and a Soprano" featuring Nolyn Cabahug, Ramon Acoymo and Alexis Edralin. The band Acoustic Dream takes centerstage afterwards. The red-hot reunion concert of "Birds of the Same Feather-By Request", featuring Richard Merk, Jacqui Magno, Eddie Katindig, Tonette Buizon and Brother Wayne, happens on June 28, preceded by Mae Romero's "Happy Hour". One June 25, "Merk & Friends" are joined by Eddie Katindig and chanteuse Ladine Roxas. "Happy Hour" finds Romy Posadas whipping up a storm behind the keys. Merk's Bar Bistro is at the 3rd level of Greenbelt 3, Ayala Center, Makati City. For inquiries and reservations, call 757-4720 or 757-4721.

Learning style confab set

THE CENTER for Learning and Teaching Styles (CLTS) Philippines, a leading advocate in the area of teacher-training and educational advocacy, mounts the 4th National Learning Styles Education Conference on June 23 and 24 at the Westin Philippine Plaza. Education leaders from the academe, government, business, and civil society sectors will attend the workshop that would focus on significant learning opportunities, guided by the theme "Winning Ideas and Strategies to Enhance (WISE)Learning." CLTS is an affiliate of the International Learning Styles Network. For further inquiries, call the CLTS secretariat at 374-4967, 374-0973, or 373-5706.

Bank to create festival

STANDARD Chartered Bank's 500 branches in over 55 countries will celebrate "Customer Week" starting today.

Mervyn Davies, Group Chief Executive, recently launched this event in London, themed as "celebrating partnerships." Over 30,000 employees of the bank worldwide are expected to participate in country-based special events.

In the Philippines, chief executive officer Simon Morris, will lead over 600 bank staff in the week's celebration.

He said, "Customer Week puts a premium on relationships strongly built by the bank with business partners over the years based on mutual trust and confidence. It is our way of specially thanking our external clients who have given us 150 years of successful operation around the world."

Customers are expected to troop to the bank branches as each transforms with carnival-like festivities. Each branch will hold an open house to its customers with this schedule: SCB Makati on June 23; SCB Ortigas on June 24; SCB Quezon City on June 25; SCB Alabang on June 26; and SCB Cebu on June 27.

Buy, sell goods cheaper than competition

BENTONVILLE, Arkansas—From its nondescript headquarters in a remote corner of Arkansas, Wal-Mart Stores Inc. decides whether to buy T-shirts made in Guatemala or Guangdong Province, and if stylish clothes from its British stores will sell in Brazil.

Love or loathe it, Wal-Mart is the world's biggest company by revenues, and the decisions made in Bentonville affect economies on five continents and dictate prices at other discounters, department stores and grocery chains.

Economists say Wal-Mart single-handedly lowers US inflation by driving down prices at its stores. The company says it raises the standard of living by saving customers billions of dollars that they can spend elsewhere.

"They are the driving force behind what is a natural economic rule—which is, over time, the price of goods and services come down," said Michael Collins, a partner with consulting firm Bain & Co.

Wal-Mart's strategy is simple: Buy and sell goods cheaper than the competition. Unlike most retailers, it doesn't run sales, instead promising its lowest price at all times.

Its stores do so much business that the register tape for one day's sales would stretch 2,670 miles (4,297 km)—or almost from New York to Los Angeles. More than 130 million customers worldwide visit a Wal-Mart store each week.

Wal-Mart accounts for roughly 9 cents out of every retail dollar spent in the United States, excluding autos. The US Federal Reserve phones Wal-Mart executives to check up on sales as a gauge of the nation's economic health.

But critics contend Wal-Mart squeezes its suppliers so hard that they can't afford to pay workers a living wage, and its anti-union stance makes it a top target for labor groups.

Wal-Mart faces dozens of US lawsuits, alleging that the world's largest private-sector employer forces people to work unpaid overtime and discriminates against women.

Its massive supercenters—some the size of four football fields—have drawn fire from environmental groups and anti-sprawl activists who say the stores contribute to flooding and gobble up green space.

Does it matter?

Analysts estimate Wal-Mart's sales could top $600 billion by 2011, and some say $1 trillion is not out of the question.

For its fiscal year that ended in January 2003, sales were $244.5 billion, three times its nearest competitor's.

But size may prove to be Wal-Mart's Achilles' heel. Founder Sam Walton worried about his company becoming so large it could no longer function efficiently.

"The folks who come after me are eventually going to have to face up to this question. Even by thinking small, can a $100 billion retailer really function as efficiently and productively as it should? Or would maybe five $20 billion companies work better?" Walton wrote in his autobiography, published in 1992, the year he died.

Jay Allen, a Wal-Mart spokesperson, said it's hard to know what Walton really meant when he wrote that, but the idea of thinking small is still alive and well in Bentonville.

"He left that on the culture. The leadership and people who are successful here still focus on what needs to be better today," Allen said.

Wal-Mart executives regularly quote from Mr. Sam's—as they still refer to him—book, and his philosophies remain an integral part of the corporate culture: The customer always comes first, treat your people well, think small, drive down costs.

All roads lead to Bentonville

So far, Wal-Mart has proved it can manage its massive operations from Arkansas.

All of Wal-Mart's US regional managers are based in Bentonville, but every Monday, they board one of Wal-Mart's 27 airplanes and head out to visit stores—something Sam Walton, a pilot, used to do regularly.

The managers return to headquarters for a 7 a.m. Thursday sales meeting in a conference room with a dozen chest-high tables and no chairs. Removing the chairs—an idea Wal-Mart picked up from its British Asda division—cut meeting times in half because no one got too comfortable.

Every Saturday morning at 7:30, managers review the week's performance and go over any new products or marketing ideas that could affect sales. Stores implement changes over the weekend, when most other company headquarters are closed.

But there are indications that the personal touch of Sam Walton's age is fading as Wal-Mart's reach extends around the globe, with stores in 10 countries and suppliers in many more. *Reuters*

Practical . . .

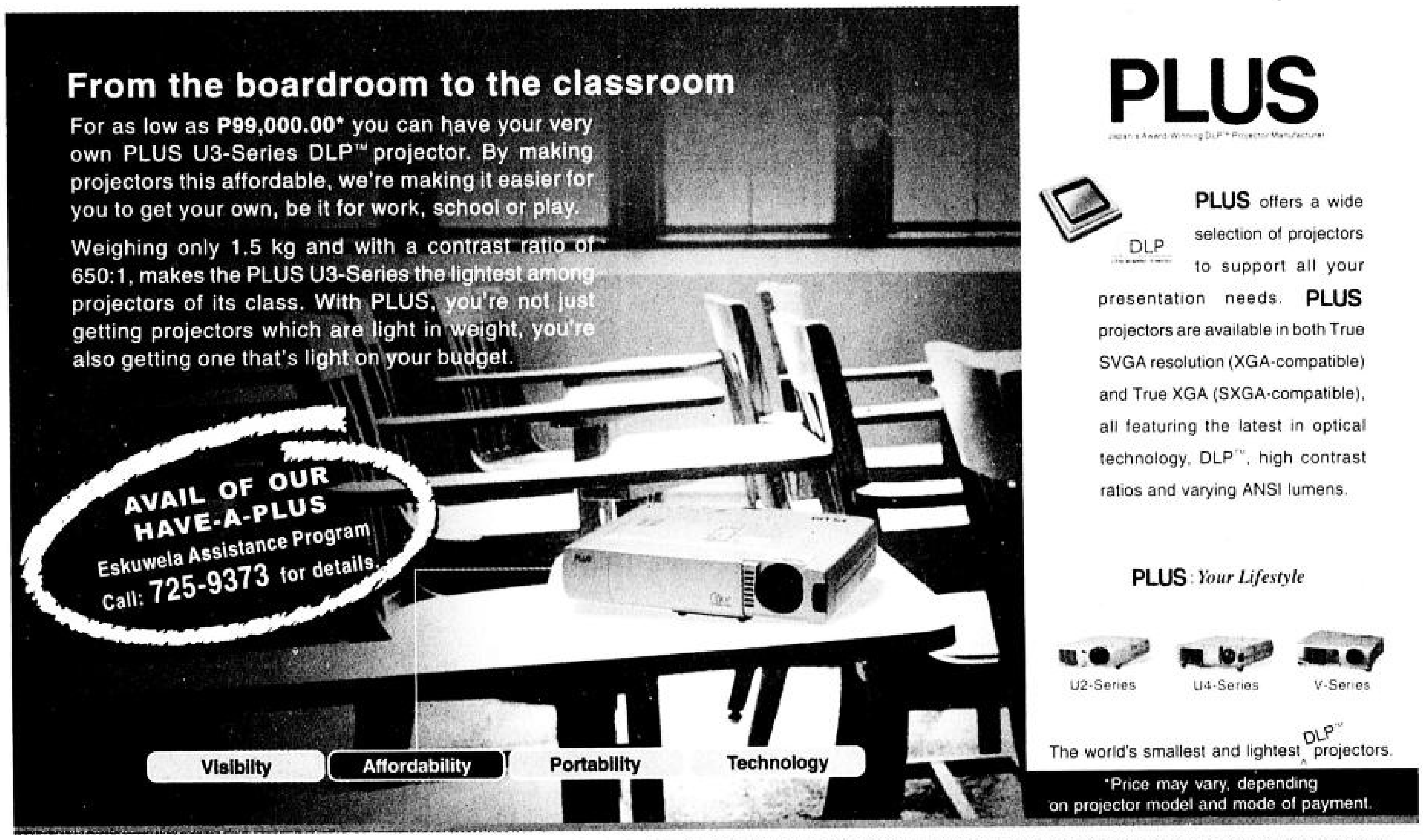
From page B2-8

style as most Europeans are not accustomed to seeing so much food laid out in front of them with the entire table digging in to serve themselves. There are several establishments that do this. Secondly, if you are on a budget and you are a big group, it is better and more efficient if you pre-order the food. Make sure you ask before hand if there are vegetarians in the group or people with diet restrictions, as you may have to order separate items for them. You will know exactly how much you will spend and if you tell the restaurant to put individual menu cards on the place settings, that small gesture will show your colleagues that you went out of your way to prepare for them. That way, it will not look as if you tried to work on a budget but rather it will create an impression that you put in the effort to make them feel welcome. If your budget permits, I would even add a small give-away on each setting. A small gift of nicely packaged *pastillas de leche* in a *banig* box or a *capiz* frame wrapped in *sinamay* and raffia would be a nice gesture and it is something unique to our country that they can take home as a souvenir.

Another useful piece of advice is that since most Europeans dine with wine, you may want to budget for that as well. If you are not too well versed with wine, there is absolutely nothing wrong with your presenting the wine list to your guests and asking them to do the ordering.

Or, you may suggest beer with Filipino food as it may be a better combination than wine. But leave the decision to your guest.

(E-mail business etiquette queries to etiquetteconsultants@hotmail.com. Names of senders will not be published.)



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BusinessMonday

Between your client and boss, who's higher ranked?

GOODNESS GRACES

Lia S. Bernardo

Q. I have heard many conflicting advice regarding the proper way to introduce my boss to a client to whom I am trying to sell a condominium unit to. Some people tell me that I should introduce the higher person first, is this true? Who then is the higher person, my boss or my client?

A. The easiest way to avoid confusion is to mention the name of the person with the higher position first, that way you can never make a mistake. In your case, the client is always the most important. The introduction should go as follows: "Mr. Alpha (client), I would like to present my boss, Mr. Beta. Or you could say, Mr. Alpha, I would like you to meet our president, Mr. Beta." But, it does not stop there. It is your responsibility to inform Mr. Beta, your boss, who Mr. Alpha is because you are trying to make a sale. As your boss, he will now try to engage Mr. Alpha in a conversation and hopefully entice him to purchase a unit.

For instance, you can say, "Mr. Beta, Mr. Alpha is interested in the penthouse unit; we were just discussing various payment terms." This way, your boss will know that he needs to pay a little more attention to an important client. By doing this you are subtly informing your boss on who Mr. Alpha is.

The rule holds true for social and business introductions. In social introductions, the woman is always the priority unless the man is much older or has a high stature; however, most men take offense to this as you may be insinuating that they are too old. So use your best judgement. For instance, you would like to introduce your co-worker, Agnes, to your brother, Steve. The introduction would go as, "Agnes, this is my brother Steve, Steve this is my officemate, Agnes Santos." But if you were introducing Agnes, your new co-worker, to your company president, the introduction should go as, "Mr. Beta, this is my new assistant, Agnes Santos. Agnes, I would like you to meet our president, Mr. John Beta."

Q. I have colleagues arriving from our company in Switzerland. My boss put me in charge of the welcome dinner on their first day. Could you give me some ideas? Should we go to a Filipino restaurant or a Swiss restaurant? I am also working on a budget, how can I maximize this without looking as if we made *tipid*?

A. First of all, I do not recommend that you do not go to a Swiss restaurant, simply because they are already Swiss and since they are visitors to our country, it is a good idea to let them experience our way of living. However, you need to be careful as well, you cannot shock them, especially if they are first time visitors, into eating our local cuisine, particularly the more exotic items like *sisig* or *bulalo*. I would recommend that you choose an elegant Filipino restaurant that can serve our local delicacies such as adobo and *sinigang na sugpo* with a continental flair. Plated, or passed around by a waiter, not family

PRACTICAL/ B2-7

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MAY

MACLANG

US firm ties up with local bank to sell 'solutions'

THE PHILIPPINES has the lowest savings rate in the world.

This goes to show that Filipinos do not make saving, or insurance, for that matter, a priority. One of the reasons for this is the lack of public knowledge on the different consumer-friendly products that insurance companies offer.

Another reason is that people often think that they don't need insurance because their relatives will take care of them in case of a problem. However, the reverse is true: If you love your family, why impose such a burden on them?

According to George May, New York Life Insurance Philippines' (NYLIP) President and CEO, getting insurance is a way of showing love and care for your loved ones.

"If you really love your family, you should be able to provide financial means to support your family when anything happens to you. That's what insurance does for you. We take care of you and your family," May explains.

NYLIP's strategy is to understand and analyze individuals' problems and then offer solutions based on each person's needs. "We sell solutions and not products. We make sure that we offer our clients tailor-fit solutions," he says.

Bancassurance figures prominently in its goal to become a major player in the market five years from now. It is expected to deliver more than 45 percent of sales for NYLIP.

Bancassurance is making available a comprehensive range of banking, investment and insurance products and services designed to meet the individual needs of the customers of the bank and its associates.

Through its bancassurance channel, NYLIP executed an exclusive marketing agreement with Allied Bank. The agreement allows NYLIP to sell their products to Allied Bank's client and employee base as well as to the employees of ABC's affiliated companies. The agreement will also help NYLIP touch base with more people nationwide.

"New York Life's strategic partnership with Allied Bank will help us reach the thousands of uninsured families in the Philippines. The wide distribution network of Allied Bank will help NYLIP increase market share faster and more efficiently," May says.

The marketing agreement is Allied Bank's first incursion into the distribution of life insurance products through their extensive branch network. It will benefit Allied Bank by cross-selling products to their existing clients and generate additional fee income. Allied Bank can also use the NYLIP brand and the potential of growing Allied Bank's business with NYLIP's expertise in the financial services arena.

At present, Allied Bank branches are actively participating and are very enthusiastic in implementing the partnership.

"We are very happy and excited to partner with New York Life since this is also a first for us in terms of insurance products. Our partnership with New York Life is a symbiotic relationship. We can help each other out in the market. Also, you can be assured that bancassurance is one of the priorities of Allied Bank," Reynaldo Maclang, Allied Bank president says.

Since the initial launch of the agreement, NYLIP has assembled and trained a team of 50 financial executives (FEs) servicing over 130 Allied bank branches. They are expecting to have more than 60 FEs covering the entire Metro Manila to completely penetrate Allied bank's 280 plus branches by the end of 2003.

E-mail: pr_entertainment@inquirer.com.ph

ENTERTAINMENT

Editor **Louie C. Camino**

Manila episode 'too painful' for Danes

DANES in her new movie, "Terminator 3"

EXCLUSIVE TO INQUIRER

By Ruben V. Nepales
Contributor

LOS ANGELES—Remember American actress Claire Danes and her cockroach-and-rats condemnation of Manila following her 1998 filming in the Philippine city?

"It has been so long but it would be too painful for me to relive it again," Danes told this INQUIRER

MANILA/ C6

DID YOU KNOW...

IF IT'S Tuesday, this must be **Raymond Bagatsing** going malling. One Tuesday earlier this month, Raymond Bagatsing, last seen on the screen in the Manila Film Festival entry, "Sanib" by Celso Ad. Castillo, was spotted watching the Jim Carrey starrer "Bruce Almighty" at the Powerplant Cinema 6 at Rockwell in Makati City. One witness said his date was a "mestiza." Exactly one week later, on a rainy Tuesday, Raymond was seen, very casual in a shirt, denims and rubber shoes, as he went malling at Shangri-La Plaza in Mandaluyong City. Another witness said Raymond was with "a pretty date." The two witnesses could not tell if Raymond's dates were one and the same.

VALENCIANO

PROFILE: /C2
Gary V and his mistress

onstage 2nyt

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Abangan ang mga Daily, Monthly (June 30 at July 31, 2003) at Anniversary draws (August 29, 2003). Baka kayo na ang susunod na mananalo!

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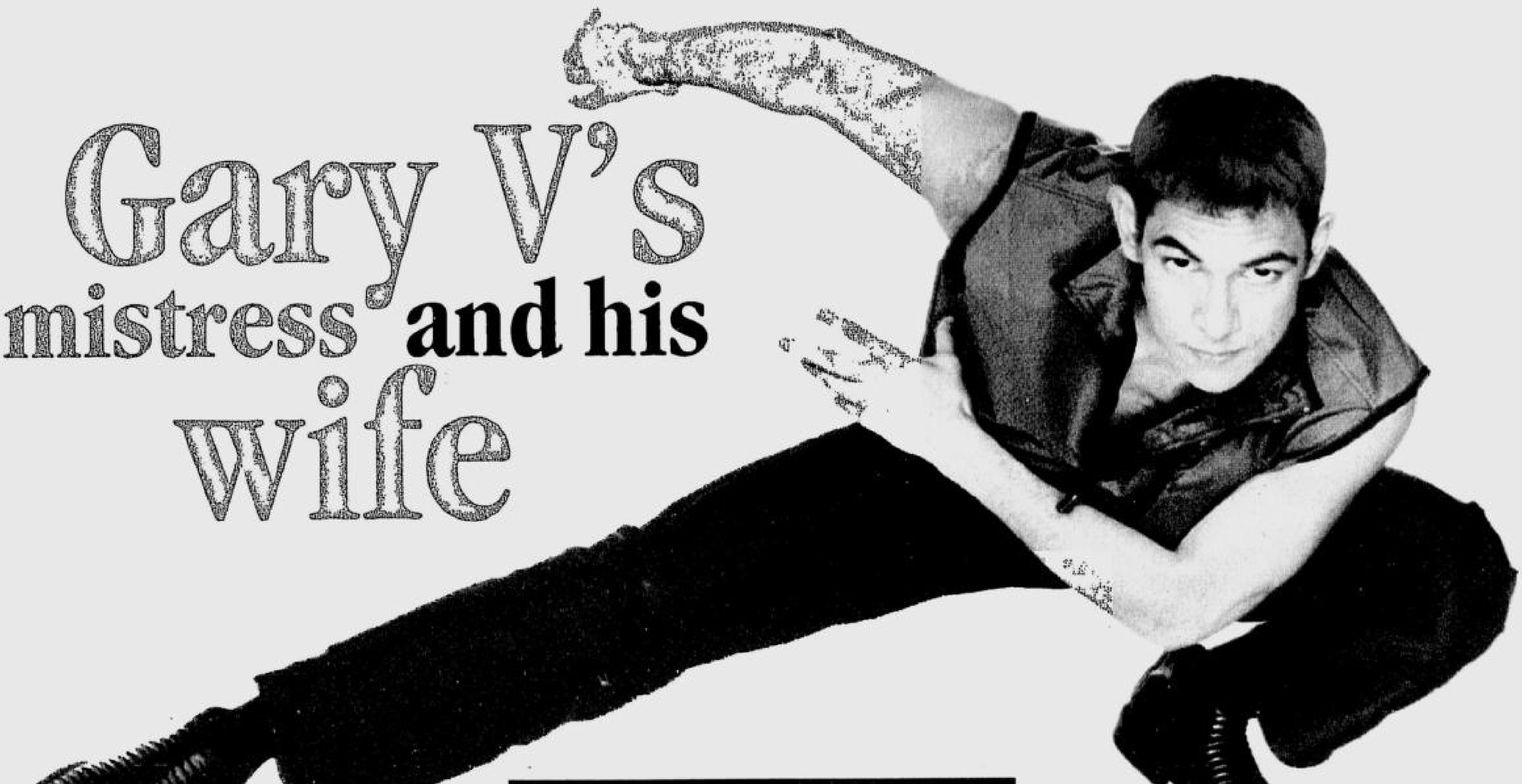
Gary V's mistress and his wife



PROFILE

By Louie C. Camino

THIS is my music room," Gary Valenciano says. "You're just about the third person (outside of family) to come here. I'm very sensitive about who comes in here."

In Gary's glass-and-lights home in the tree-shaded Pangilinan compound in Antipolo City, the singer's music room is crammed with books and CDs and everything musical, and dominated by a tight cluster of electronic music-making equipment, including a G4, "an old Mac," with a photo of Gary and his wife and kids propped on the monitor, and a mean-looking keyboard with more keys and levers than a normal person would learn to use in a lifetime. Aside from the posters and photos and CD albums that say the room belongs to a singer, composer and performer who is one of the biggest and most important in the country, it is a small, tight unimposing area. So this is Gary V's inner sanctum.

Under the same roof

"I spend time here every day," says the singer. "When I'm down here creating music, I enjoy myself most. There's no one to worry about, there's no applause to worry about, there's no need to say anything. And I'm with the very root of what people are going to hear later on."

"This," says Angeli Pangilinan-Valenciano, Gary's wife of 17 years, as she squeezes herself into a seat in a tight corner, glass of red wine in hand, "this room is the mistress in my life! Doesn't a mistress take up time? We're sharing the same man, and we're even living under the same roof! He spends nights with 'her.'"

"But it feels good," says Gary, guilt-free, beaming with the Gary V smile, his mouth curling up like a boy's, his eyes crinkling with pleasure. "Sometimes I work here up to 3, 4 in the morning, sometimes 5. I wake up, and I'm still in front of the computer and the music has been going on for more than an hour. Every time I come here I don't know what's going to come out. Sometimes, nothing happens, sometimes something happens. Like, remember what I did at Onstage ('Gary by Request,' November 2002), that whole medley of songs at the end? I worked on that in this room. *Sarap!* I'm here maybe four days out of the seven days of the week."

"Hello!" protests the woman who has to share Gary with the music room. "Here?" She insists Gary spends more time with his "mistress" than he would care to admit.

'Christian construction'

She may be right. The country's most famous diabetic, the music man ironically called Mr. Pure Energy, is without compunction as far as his own very private space is concerned. "This is where I sleep sometimes," he says. "This is where I pray."

"With a Leadership Bible that I gave him last Christmas," says Angeli.

Edgardo Jose Martin Santiago Valenciano, 38, who has both Filipino and Puerto Rican blood, describes himself now as a "Christian being constructed." "Singing and dancing are only secondary to what I'm really supposed to do," he says. "They're just an added attraction."

What does Gary, also the country's biggest Christian entertainer, pray for in his most private zone?

"Right now," he says, "I'm praying for new songs to start coming in, for the creative juices to start flowing, not only when it comes to live performances which are easier because you're working with existing materials. It's harder to create something from scratch. I'm working on some stuff now, some rhythms."

He presses keys and pushes levers up and down and proceeds to play some guitar, and then drums, all in the machine, sounds that could soon be part of another Gary V hit that could eventually take its place alongside Gary V classics.

First 20 years

"I've been in the business for 20 years (last April)," he says while fiddling with the keys and levers like a boy opening a box of presents, "and right now the most exciting thing is not knowing what the next 20 years is going to be like in my career, but trusting that it's going to be great."

ANGELI and the "highest points" of his life, Gabriel, Kiana and Paolo

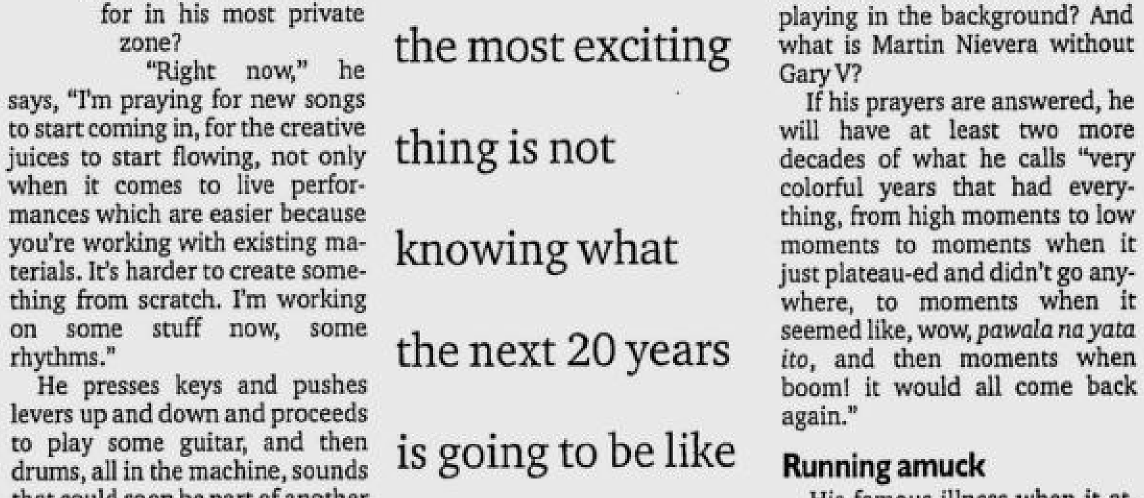
> 'Right now, the most exciting thing is not knowing what the next 20 years is going to be like in my career'

He could have said "great again" and he would be right. After all, the first two decades of Gary V in Philippine entertainment, and the body of work that he has to show for those years, including 22 albums so far, have been nothing less than great. Such works as "Sana Maulit Muli," "Take Me Out of the Dark," "Di Bale Na Lang," "Eto Na Naman," "Di Na Natuto," and others will still be sung and heard in 20 years times two, and chances are, the Gary V versions will still be the best. What is Christmas without the sound of Gary singing "Pasko Na, Sinta Ko"? What is a Christian concert without "Could You be My Messiah" or "Shout for Joy"? What is an important moment without the dramatic strains of "Warrior is a Child" playing in the background? And what is Martin Nievera without Gary V?

If his prayers are answered, he will have at least two more decades of what he calls "very colorful years that had everything, from high moments to low moments to moments when it just plateau-ed and didn't go anywhere, to moments when it seemed like, wow, *pawala na yata ito*, and then moments when boom! it would all come back again."

Running amuck

His famous illness when it attacks, such as when his sugar level is high, is always a very low moment for Gary and his loved ones. Angeli, who has witnessed all sorts of diabetes attacks, explains it simply: "Gary has to take insulin two to three times a day, but he has to take his sugar level first. If his sugar is high, he cannot eat. If his sugar is low, he's gotta eat. In the morning, the first thing he does is take his sugar level. He pricks his finger to draw blood. If it's low, he has to eat right away. If it's high, he has to wait for an hour before he can eat breakfast. The insulin is supposed to bring down the sugar level. He has a sugar level kit in the music room, upstairs and the bathroom.



INNER SANCTUM, the music room where Gary spends long hours. JOAN BONDOC

"Once," Angeli recalls, "I was trying to wake him up for five minutes and he wouldn't wake up. I thought if he didn't wake up, he could go into pre-coma stage. I had to give him sugar glucose by mouth. It took 30 minutes before he was revived. I wasn't crying. After being married to him for all these years, I've seen his various attacks."

She did cry, once, in 1989 in Toronto after a particularly scary attack following one of his Canadian performances. "Gary ran amuck!" she exclaims.

911 to the rescue

The attack, according to Gary, started inside a moviehouse in a Toronto mall where he and his group watched "Batman." "Suddenly," Gary says, "in the middle of the movie, I felt I was going into the twilight zone. I realized something was going on. I prayed. I said, 'Lord, it's the first time I'm feeling this. *Ikaw na'ng bahala.*' It was the first time I felt it was that serious. I was conscious and I knew exactly what was going on, but I couldn't control it. The next thing I knew, the movie's end credits were over. I didn't understand the movie. Up to now, when I watch it, I don't think of the movie, I think of what happened then."

Outside the theater, the vending machines, the pop corn machine, the candy store were all closed and shuttered. There was nothing to eat to bring up his sugar level. "And it was the first night when Angeli was not with me."

Soon, he was running around the parking lot, desperately looking for glucose. "It was like I was in a dream, but I couldn't wake up from it because I was awake all along," says Gary. His group had to call 911. And the 911 people came and they didn't believe Gary was suffering a diabetes attack "because I was hyper." The 911 men grabbed the Filipino singer by his belt and threw him on the hood of the car, thinking he was on something illegal. When Gary's Girl Friday finally told them the names of the drugs he desperately needed, they were convinced and finally brought Gary to the hospital.

In a house in Valle Varde, there was once a huge jagged hole in one bathroom door, a testament to another Gary attack. "When his sugar is high, he becomes very hot tempered," says Angeli. "Sometimes, I just leave him and hide. Our first house in Valle Verde had a hole in the bathroom door. He was mad because his sugar was high and he couldn't control his temper. He kicked the door. I had to explain to the children so they would understand."

These attacks, she says, remind her of the Bible verse that says "when we are weak, then we are strong." "So when I see Gary weak and suffering during his attacks, and then I see him on stage, I feel I see the Lord in action. I always say I'm privileged to be his wife. Oooh, but it's true! When I see the gifts that God has given him and I have been the one chosen to be his wife, then I realize there must be something special that God saw in me that He chose me to be Gary's wife. And I feel it most when he's having an attack, even when it's not a pretty sight."

His biggest fear

Despite his ever-threatened condition, the diabetes is not always his biggest fear. It is fear of falling short, according to the singing, dancing and composing artist who has been honored with many awards, including a sextuple platinum award (for "Gary V Greatest Hits" in '98) and ones for records and songs of the year, for best performances and best movie themes, from all the award-giving bodies. His fear of falling short is not only as a performer or music maker, because, like his illness, it has hit him, he says, "so many times, and not only in my shows."

He elaborates, his whole lean, brisk body also telling the story. "There's so much that has been given to me. Just wanting to simply entertain has never been my thrust, but when you begin to want to do just that . . .

"A Gary concert should be fun, but it should also be relevant. It should meet people at the point of their need. If they go home with just the memory of a song or a dance, that's not enough. There has to be some kind of . . . "

While he is searching for the right word, Angeli steps in and takes over, telling the story of a young woman who watched Gary's show in San Francisco last year. She said the woman was ready to commit suicide, but just before she could, her unknowing friends, who were Gary V fans, dragged her to his show.

"She was supposed to kill herself after my concert," says Gary. "I don't know what song it was that changed her mind," says Angeli. "I think it was 'Warrior is a Child.'"

Why he dances

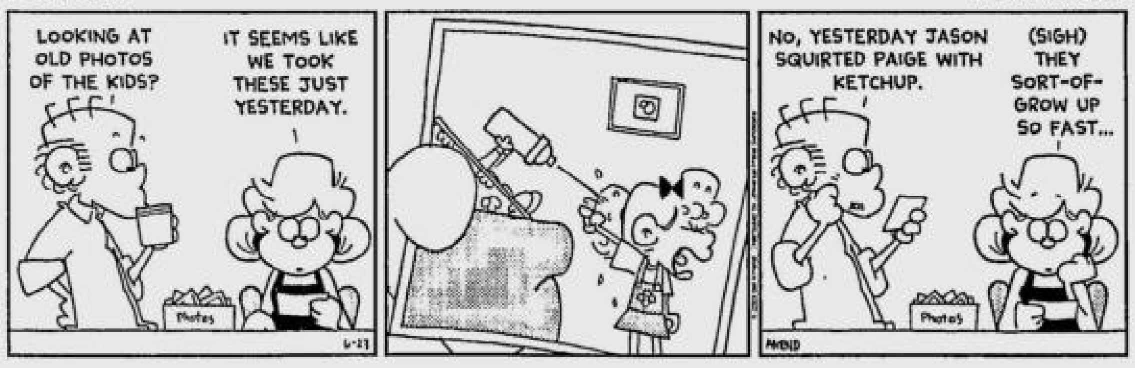
"One song," says Gary. "For me, that's the goal, without sounding like I'm shoving it down people's throats." Can't people just watch and be entertained by his songs and dances? "That can be," he says, "but that's not enough for me."

And then there's the renowned, admired as well as maligned Gary V dancing. A Gary V show is never complete without the fancy foot-and-body work that you either love or compare with disdain to Michael Jackson's. Some of Gary's stage moves seem so difficult and physically challenging they should be preceded by the warning "don't try this at home." In one spot in an Onstage show, for example, Gary was singing while standing beside a steel drum when all at once, the bones in his body seemed to have melted and he fell against the drum and then oozed down to the floor in one single move.

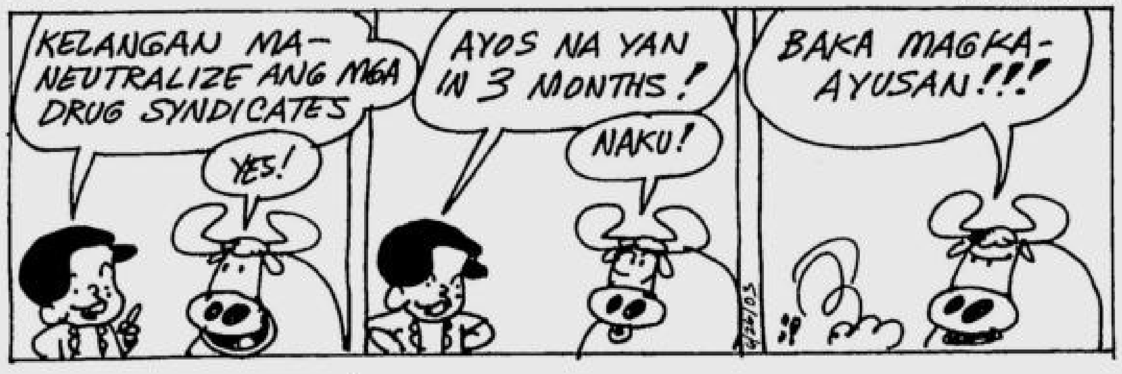
"I've heard a mixture of comments about the dancing," the dancer admits. "'Be still for a while,' they say, 'and just stay there

GARY/ C6

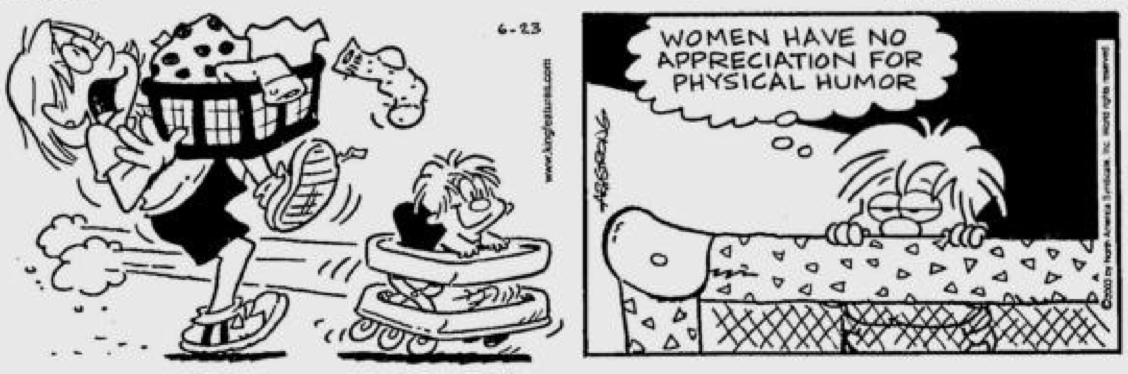
FOXTROT BY BILL AMEND


LOOKING AT OLD PHOTOS OF THE KIDS?
IT SEEMS LIKE WE TOOK THESE JUST YESTERDAY.
Photos
6-23
NO, YESTERDAY JASON SQUIRTED PAIGE WITH KETCHUP.
(SIGH) THEY SORT-OF-GROW UP SO FAST...
Photos
AMEND

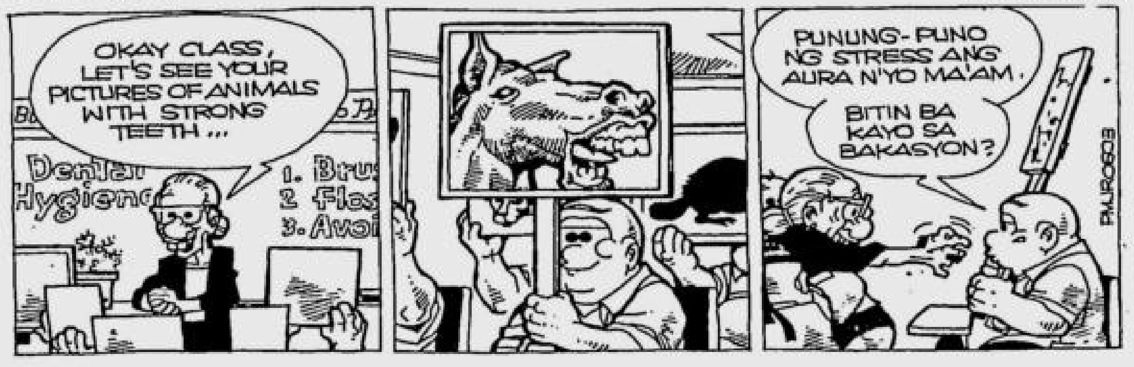
A. LIPIN BY JESS ABRERA


KELANGAN MA-NEUTRALIZE ANG MGA DRUG SYNDICATES
YES!
AYOS NA YAN IN 3 MONTHS!
NAKU!
BAKA MAGKA-AYUSAN!!!

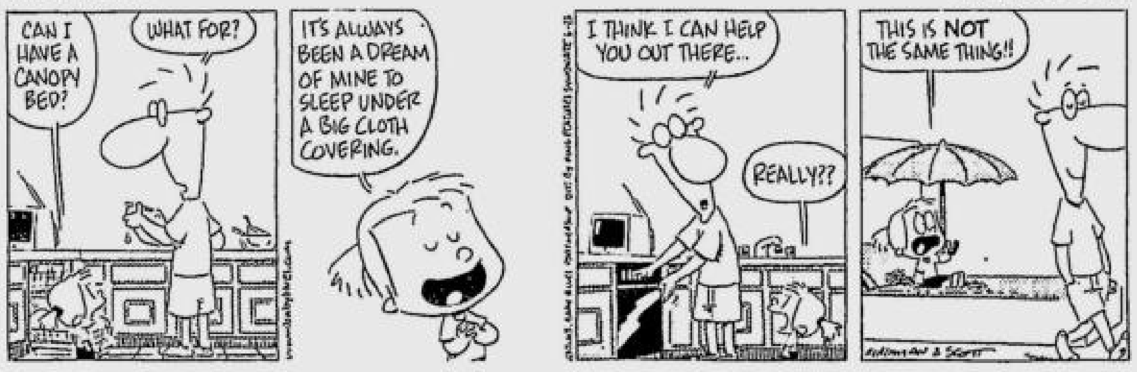
MARVIN BY TOM ARMSTRONG


6-23
www.kingfeatures.com
WOMEN HAVE NO APPRECIATION FOR PHYSICAL HUMOR
ARMSTRONG

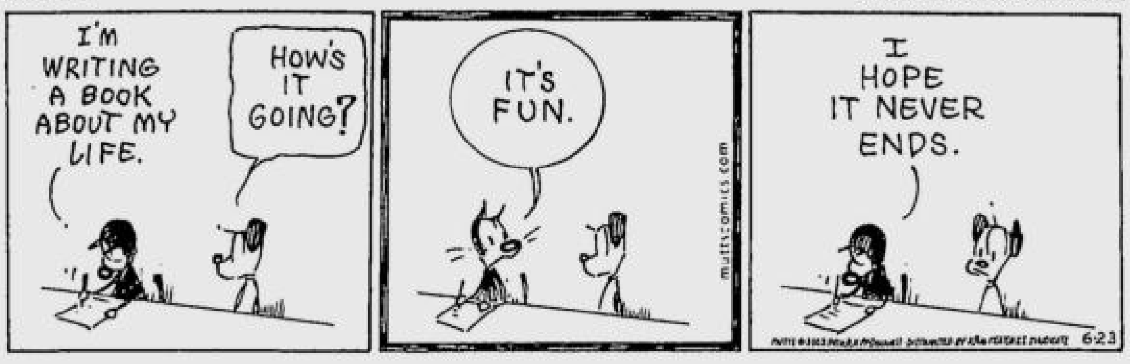
PUGAD BABOY BY P.M. JUNIOR


OKAY CLASS, LET'S SEE YOUR PICTURES OF ANIMALS WITH STRONG TEETH ...
Dental Hygiene
1. Brus
2. Flos
3. Avoi
PUNUNG-PUNO NG STRESS ANG AURA N'YO MA'AM.
BITIN BA KAYO SA BAKASYON?
PMJR0603

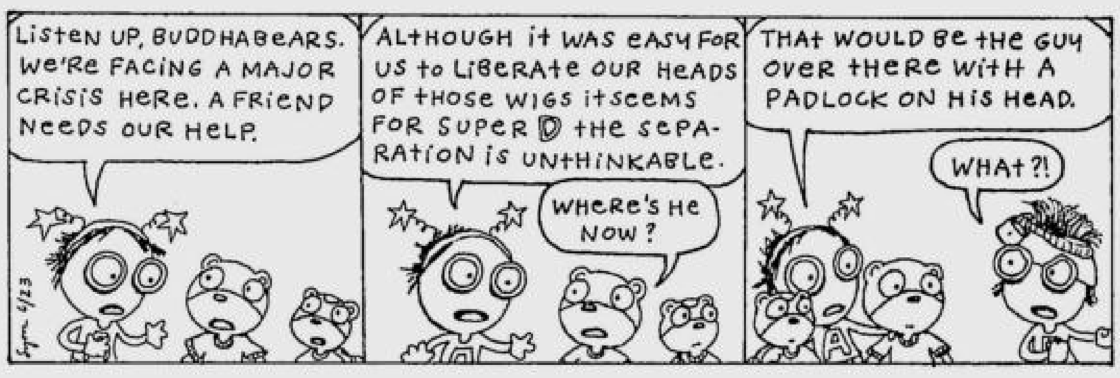
BABY BLUES BY JERRY SCOTT


CAN I HAVE A CANOPY BED?
WHAT FOR?
IT'S ALWAYS BEEN A DREAM OF MINE TO SLEEP UNDER A BIG CLOTH COVERING.
I THINK I CAN HELP YOU OUT THERE...
REALLY??
THIS IS NOT THE SAME THING!!
KIRKMAN & SCOTT

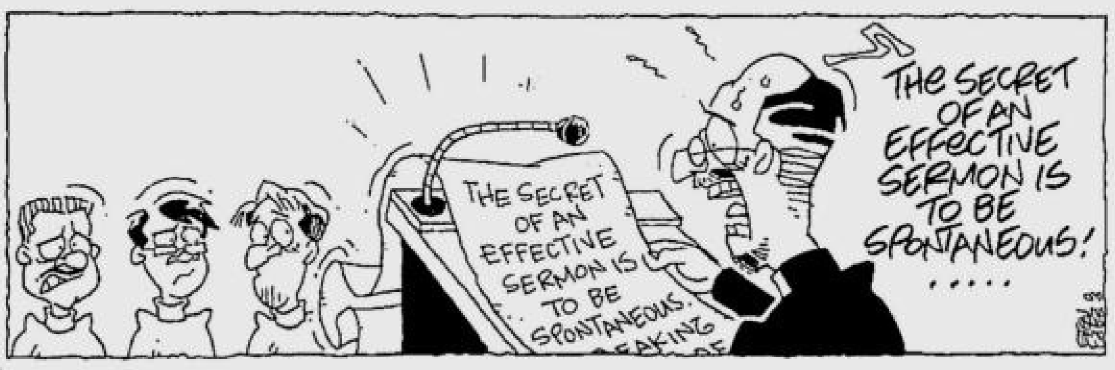
MUTTS BY PATRICK McDONNELL


I'M WRITING A BOOK ABOUT MY LIFE.
HOW'S IT GOING?
IT'S FUN.
muttscomics.com
I HOPE IT NEVER ENDS.
6-23

ATOMO AND WEBOY BY LYRA GARCELLANO


Listen up, Buddhabears. We're facing a major crisis here. A friend needs our help.
Although it was easy for us to liberate our heads of those wigs it seems for Super D the separation is unthinkable.
Where's he now?
That would be the guy over there with a padlock on his head.
What?!
Lyra 6/23

DIVINE COMEDY BY STEVEN PABALINAS


THE SECRET OF AN EFFECTIVE SERMON IS TO BE SPONTANEOUS.
THE SECRET OF AN EFFECTIVE SERMON IS TO BE SPONTANEOUS!
.....

HOROSCOPE

BY FRANCIS DRAKE

YOU BORN TODAY: There is something magical about you. People are drawn to your charm and your talents. Your success is due to skill and devotion to your craft. You have a strong spiritual side as well. You have tremendous concentration and self-discipline when you want. This year could be one of the best years of your life! Dream big.
Birthdate of: Jeff Beck, musician; Sherry Stringfield, actress; Mick Fleetwood, musician.

ARIES (March 21 to April 19): You see new and different ways to create stability at home and within your family sphere. This both liberates you and gives you a feeling of more security at the same time.

TAURUS (April 20 to May 20): Today you see how to get something that you want very much. You're willing to plan, work patiently and apply yourself to achieve this.

GEMINI (May 21 to June 20): Encouragement from bosses and colleagues gives you the reassurance you need to work hard now. You know what you want, and you're willing to do what it takes to get it.

CANCER (June 21 to July 22): Careful plans relating to the media, publishing, foreign countries and higher education take a new route now. You see fresh ways of doing things and want to begin immediately.

LEO (July 23 to Aug. 22): Your romantic passions are stirred deeply today; nevertheless, you have the patience to wait for what you want. You see that it is primarily a matter of cultivating self-discipline and serenity.

VIRGO (Aug. 23 to Sept. 22): Discussions with partners and close friends reveal completely new ways of doing things. Act on this advice to promote your career and get the approval you want.

LIBRA (Sept. 23 to Oct. 22): Bosses, authority figures, VIPs—even parents—appreciate your novel and original ideas today. You can show them that you can lead a horse to water and make him float!

SCORPIO (Oct. 23 to Nov. 21): Practical applications for modern technology occur to you today. These insights can boost your career and make others admire you now.

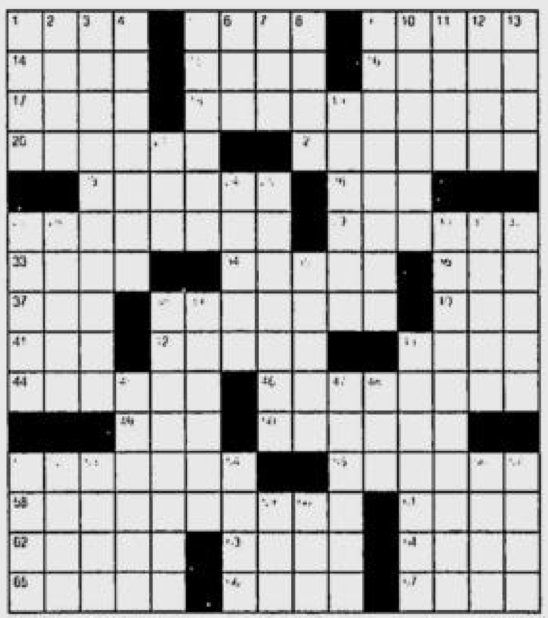
SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22 to Dec. 21): The resources of others, extended credit, loans and financial backing help you to reorganize your private life or real estate deals. You make great strides today!

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22 to Jan. 19): Your bright, modern and unusual ideas about how to make improvements at work surprise others. For this, you can expect considerable recognition and acknowledgment.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20 to Feb. 18): Hard work definitely boosts your earnings today. You're willing to pay your dues. You're willing to do your homework. And that's what it takes right now.

PISCES (Feb. 19 to March 20): Today you see how you can make major changes in a disciplined, orderly way. The realization of this is a welcome release for you. You're free to go forward to do what you want to do.

DAILY CROSSWORD



By Robert Zimmerman
San Diego, CA
6/23/03

ACROSS
1 Limits
5 Social affairs
9 Be of one mind
14 Norway capital
15 "__ la Douce"
16 Figure of speech
17 Welfare
18 Where Garbo and Barrymore checked in
20 More indolent
22 Boils
23 Word to the wise
26 Be the right size
27 Fair game
29 Weather-map line
33 Gloomy
34 Two quartets
36 Athos, to Aramis
37 Oriental sash
38 Ineffective
40 Harbor vessel
41 Countenance
42 Song of praise
43 Pianist John
44 Santa's ride
46 W. __ Maugham
49 Gun lobby
50 Early round, briefly
51 Picketer's sign
55 Sure-handed
58 Where Crosby and Astaire checked in
61 Caesar's question to Brutus
62 Make joyful
63 Complexion damage
64 Fulfill
65 Tapered off
66 Doe or stag
67 "Desire Under the __"

DOWN
1 Monk's hood
2 Out of port
3 Where Matthau checked in
4 More firm
5 River of Baghdad
6 Do it wrong
7 Doc's org.
8 Without
9 Disbelievers
10 Cave
11 IRA designation
12 Fencer's foil
13 Morays
19 Stands up to
21 Gabor of "Green Acres"
24 Aussie cry
25 Embrace
27 Fanzine subjects
28 International prize
30 Where Leigh checked in
31 Entertain
32 Just
35 Quartet member
38 Switched to first class
39 World's largest desert
43 Roman galley
45 Stir up
47 Nastier
48 Yore
51 I'm glad that's over
52 "Damn Yankees" character
53 Greenspan of the Fed
54 Pair
56 List unit
57 Sounds of mild reproof
59 Stolen diamonds
60 Wind dir.

Saturday's Puzzle Solved

F	U	S	E	■	A	D	D	I	S	A	B	A	B	A
O	N	C	E	■	M	E	U	S	E	R	I	V	E	R
R	E	A	L	■	P	R	E	S	S	A	G	E	N	T
T	N	T	■	L	E	F	S	■	S	P	O	R	T	Y
A	R	T	W	O	R	K	■	F	I	A	T	■	■	■
P	I	E	R	R	E	■	P	O	O	H	■	S	P	Y
A	C	R	I	D	■	B	R	U	N	O	■	P	I	E
C	H	E	T	■	S	A	I	L	S	■	P	A	N	S
H	E	R	■	S	I	T	E	S	■	F	A	C	E	T
E	D	S	■	E	X	E	S	■	A	R	L	E	N	E
■	■	■	S	A	P	S	■	S	L	E	E	P	E	R
P	E	S	T	L	E	■	V	A	L	E	■	R	E	D
A	P	P	O	I	N	T	I	V	E	■	S	O	D	A
S	E	A	N	O	C	A	S	E	Y	■	A	B	L	Y
S	E	R	E	N	E	N	E	S	S	■	G	E	E	S

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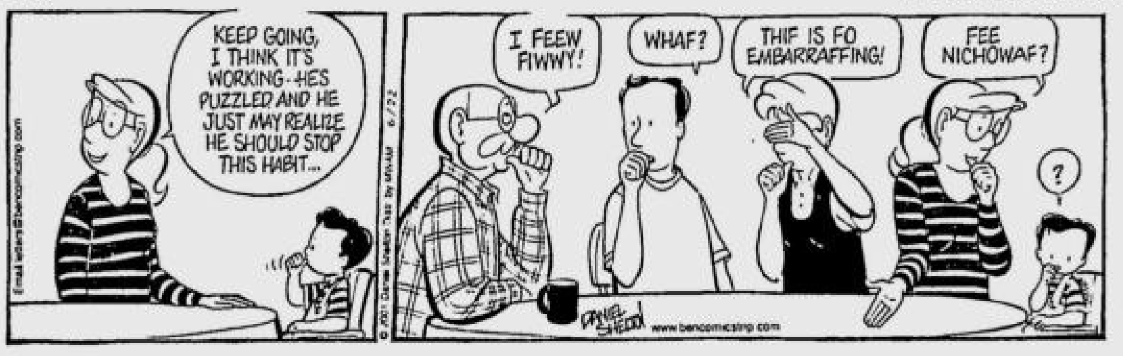
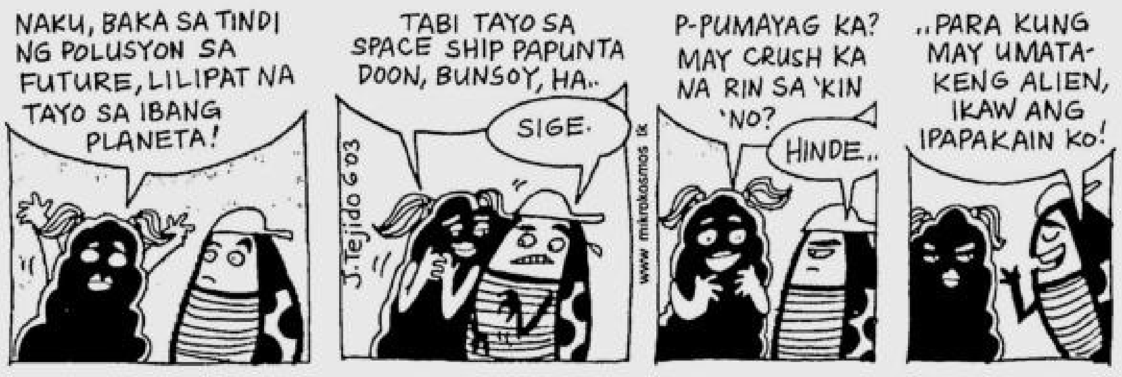
6/23/03

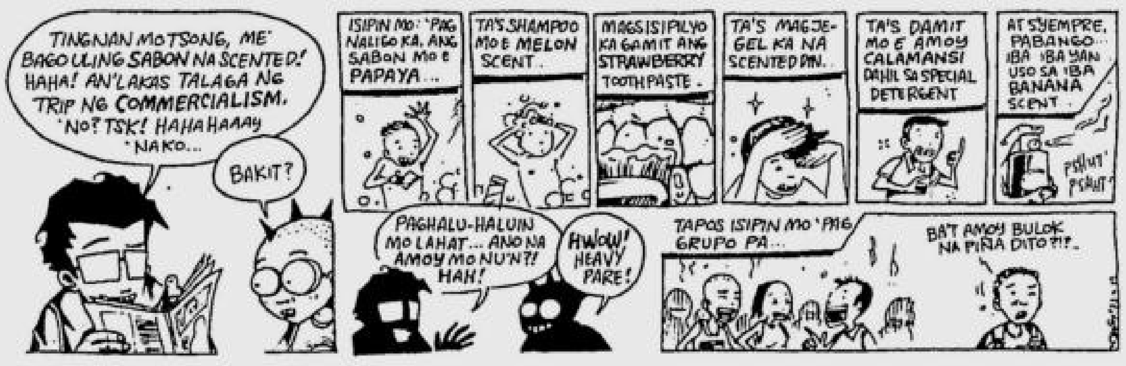
BEN BY DANIEL SHELTON


KEEP GOING, I THINK IT'S WORKING - HE'S PUZZLED AND HE JUST MAY REALIZE HE SHOULD STOP THIS HABIT...
I FEEW FIWWY!
WHAF?
THIF IS FO EMBARRAFFING!
FEE NICHOWAF?
?
6/22
www.bencomicstrip.com

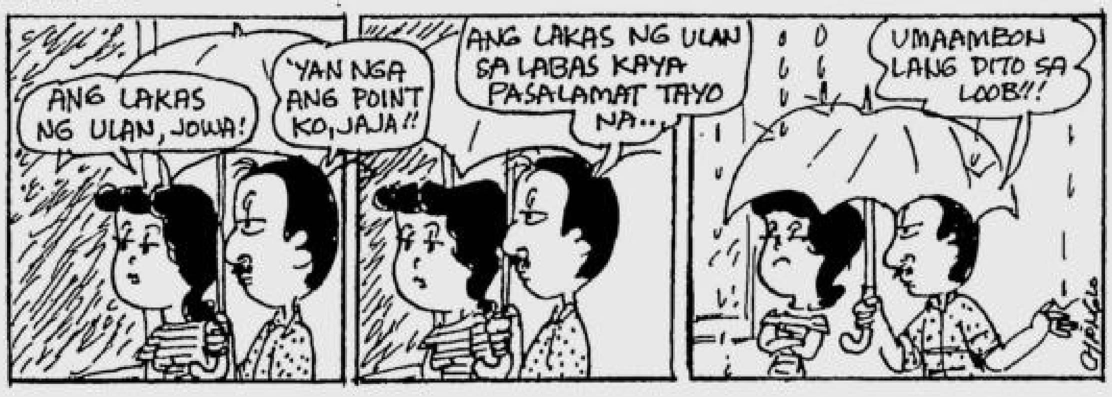
MIKROKOSMOS BY JOMIKE TEJIDO


NAKU, BAKA SA TINDI NG POLUSYON SA FUTURE, LILIPAT NA TAYO SA IBANG PLANETA!
TABI TAYO SA SPACE SHIP PAPUNTA DOON, BUNSOY, HA..
SIGE.
J. Tejido 6 03
www mikrokosmos ck
P-PUMAYAG KA? MAY CRUSH KA NA RIN SA 'KIN 'NO?
HINDE..
..PARA KUNG MAY UMATAKENG ALIEN, IKAW ANG IPAPAKAIN KO!

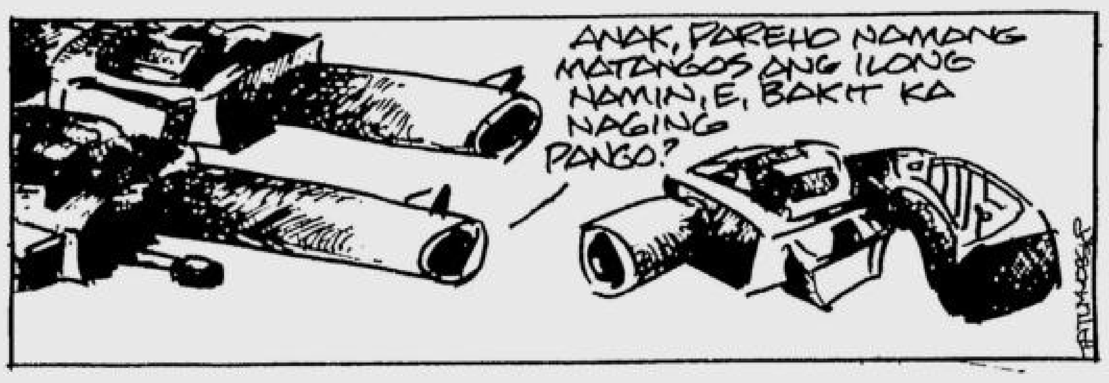
KIKO MACHINE BY MANIX ABRERA


TINGNAN MO TSONG, ME' BAGO ULING SABON NA SCENTED! HAHA! AN'LAKAS TALAGA NG TRIP NG COMMERCIALISM. 'NO? TSK! HAHAHAAAY 'NAKO...
BAKIT?
ISIPIN MO: 'PAG NALIGO KA, ANG SABON MO E PAPAYA...
TA'S SHAMPOO MO E MELON SCENT..
MAGSISIPILYO KA GAMIT ANG STRAWBERRY TOOTHPASTE.
TA'S MAGJE-GEL KA NA SCENTED DIN..
TA'S DAMIT MO E AMOY CALAMANSI DAHIL SA SPECIAL DETERGENT
AT SYEMPRE, PABANGO... IBA IBA YAN USO SA IBA BANANA SCENT.
PSHUT' PSHUT'
PAGHALU-HALUIN MO LAHAT... ANO NA AMOY MO NU'N?! HAH!
HWOW! HEAVY PARE!
TAPOS ISIPIN MO 'PAG GRUPO PA...
BA'T AMOY BULOK NA PIÑA DITO?!?..

LOVEKNOTS BY ELIZABETH CHIONGLO


ANG LAKAS NG ULAN, JOWA!
'YAN NGA ANG POINT KO, JAJA!!
ANG LAKAS NG ULAN SA LABAS KAYA PASALAMAT TAYO NA...
UMAAMBON LANG DITO SA LOOB!!!
Chionglo

TULDOK BY PAPU AND TATUM MILAMBILING


ANAK, PAREHO NAMANG MATANGOS ANG ILONG NAMIN, E, BAKIT KA NAGING PANGO?
TATUMOSER

ALL DIGITAL SOUND

AYALA CINEMAS

PRESENTS

G1 GLORIETTA 1	G4 GLORIETTA 4	GB1 GREENBELT 1	GB3 GREENBELT 3	ATC ALABANG TOWN CENTER
1 HULK	1 HULK	ArtFilm 1 PUNCH DRUNK LOVE 1:55, 1:50, 3:45, 5:40, 7:35, 9:30	GUARANTEED SEATS THX 1 IT RUNS IN THE FAMILY 1:50, 4:00, 6:10, 8:20, 10:30	THX 1 HULK
2 PANGARAP KO ANG IBIGIN KA	2 PUNCH-DRUNK LOVE	2 HULK 11:10, 1:45, 4:20, 6:55, 9:30	GUARANTEED SEATS THX 2 HULK 1:10, 4:00, 6:50, 9:40	2 HULK
3 SANIB	GUARANTEED SEATS THX 3 HULK 1:55, 4:45, 7:35, 10:25	Onstage REX RELOADED July 1 - 8:00 pm NANETTE I. W/ GARY V. July 3, 9pm	GUARANTEED SEATS 3 ANG TANGING INA 11:30, 1:30, 3:30, 5:30, 7:30, 9:30	3 HULK
4 HULK	4 HOW TO LOSE A GUY IN 10 DAYS		GUARANTEED SEATS 4 BRUCE ALMIGHTY 1:50, 4:00, 6:10, 8:20, 10:30	4 ANG TANGING INA
	5 BRUCE ALMIGHTY		GUARANTEED SEATS 5 HULK 12:00, 2:50, 5:40, 8:30, 11:20	5 BRUCE ALMIGHTY
	6 HULK			
	7 ANG TANGING INA			

For sreening times, call 729-7777. Movies are subject to change without prior notice. Reserve your seats by texting **SURESEATS GB3** or **SURESEATS G4** and send to **2333**. Or log on to www.sureseats.com for web reservations.

MMTA

METRO MANILA THEATERS ASSOCIATION

MOVIE GUIDE

NOW SHOWING

EMAIL: mmta@asia.com

Filinvest FESTIVAL CINEMA

(Muntinlupa) tel 850.3571 or 72

1 (DOLBY)	THE HULK
2 (SDDS)	THE HULK
3 (DTS)	PANGARAP KONG IIBIGIN KA
4 GOLD (DTS ES)	FRIDA
5 GOLD (DOLBY EX)	BRUCE ALMIGHTY
6 GOLD (SDDS)	THE HULK
7 GOLD (DOLBY EX)	THE HULK
8	ANG TANGING INA
9	ANG HULING BIRHEN SA LUPA
10	SANIB

Pearl Plaza Cinemas

(Parañaque) tel. 853.4486

1	RESERVE
2	RESERVE
3 (DTS)	RESERVE
4	RESERVE
5	RESERVE
6 (DTS)	RESERVE
Golden Pearl THX	RESERVE

Masagana CINEMA ①②&③

(Pasay) tel 833.3290 / 833.3274

1	PANGARAP KO ANG IBIGIN KA
2	THE HULK
3	ANG HULING BIRHEN SA LUPA

starmall Movies

www.clickthecity.com.ph (Mandaluyong) tel 724.4986

1	PANGARAP KONG IIBIGIN KA
2	BIGAY HILIG
3	SANIB
4 (DOLBY DIGITAL EX)	HULK
5	ANG HULING BIRHEN SA LUPA

METROPOLIS star

www.clickthecity.com.ph (Alabang) tel 850.4285

1	BIGAY HILIG
2	ANG TANGING INA
3	SANIB
4	THE HULK
5	ANG HULING BIRHEN SA LUPA
6	BERTUD NG PUTIK

M Star

www.clickthecity.com.ph (Las Pinas) tel 873.5004

1	OPERATION BALIKATAN
2	BERTUD NG PUTIK

PREMIERE CINEMA THX

(Makati City) TEL. 8934225, 8922503

THE HULK

Center Plaza Cinema

(Balanga, Bataan) tel (047) 237.7007

1	TANGING INA
2	BRUCE ALMIGHTY

FCM FAIRVIEW CENTER MALL INC

tel 930.9515

1
2
3

Sunshine

(FTI, Taguig) tel 838.4301 loc. 3376

1	ALAB NG LAHI
2	ANG TANING INA
3	ANG HULING BIRHEN SA LUPA
4	THE HULK

GOTESCO CINEMA

Gotesco City

(Manila) tel 734.8588

1 (SDDS)	BERTUD NG PUTIK
4	BERTUD NG PUTIK
5	ANG HULING BIRHEN SA LUPA
6	ALAB NG LAHI
7 (DTS)	SANIB
8 (SDDS)	PANGARAP KONG IIBIGIN KA
9 (DOLBY)	OPERATION BALIKATAN

Gotesco Caloocan

tel 362.3508

2	RESERVE

Gotesco Grand Central

(Caloocan) tel 365.7928

1	SANIB
2	PANGARAP KONG IIBIGIN KA
3	ANG TANGING INA
4 (SDDS)	THE HULK
5	ANG HULING BIRHEN SA LUPA
6 (DOLBY)	BERTUD NG PUTIK
7 (DTS)	THE HULK
8	BIGAY HILIG
9	OPERATION BALIKATAN

Gotesco Commonwealth

tel 951.0082

1	ANG TANGING INA
2 (SDDS)	ANG HULING BIRHEN SA LUPA
3 (DTS)	THE HULK
4 (DOLBY)	THE HULK
5	BERTUD NG PUTIK

Gotesco Ortigas

tel 656.6795

1	BERTUD NG PUTIK
2	ANG HULING BIRHEN SA LUPA
3 (DTS)	THE HULK
4	ANG TANGING INA
5 (SDDS)	THE HULK

Universal

(Manila) tel 733.2470

1	BERTUD NG PUTIK

Sampaguita

(Cubao) tel 911.7888

1	THE HULK

Dilson

(Manila) tel 734.7724

Dilson	SANIB
Lords	ALAB NG LAHI
Jennet	

MARKETPLACE

Mandaluyong tel 533.3851 / 533.3856

1	ANG HULING BIRHEN SA LUPA
2	BERTUD NG PUTIK
3	THE HULK
4	PANGARAP KO ANG IBIGIN KA

Isetann Cinerama Complex Recto SUPER CINERAMA

tel 733.4238

1 (DOLBY)	OPERATION BALIKATAN
2	PANGARAP KONG IIBIGIN KA
3	ANG HULING BIRHEN SA LUPA
4	BERTUD NG PUTIK
5	ALAB NG LAHI

FRC Cinema

(Talaba Bacoor Cavite)

1
2

Berma Cinema

(Baclaran) tel 879.2030 / 879.2029

1	THE HULK
2	ALAB NG LAHI

THE CENTER OF ENTERTAINMENT Araneta Center

MALL CINEPLEX 7

tel 911.3101 loc. 821/8242/8400

1	PANGARAP KONG IBIGIN KITA
2	SANIB
3 (DOLBY DIGITAL)	BERTUD NG PUTIK
4 (SDDS)	THE HULK
5 (DTS)	THE HULK
6	ANG HULING BIRHEN SA LUPA
7	ANG TANGING INA

FarmersPlaza CINEMAS

tel 911.3101 loc. 821/8242/8400

1	CLOSED
2	CLOSED

CINEMA 2000

Cinema 2000 Target Mall

(Sta. Rosa Laguna) TEL. (049) 837-0926

1	PUTIK
2	HULING BIRHEN SA LUPA
3 (DTS)	THE HULK

Cinema 2000 Waltermart

(Calamba) tel (049) 545.7383

1	PANGARAP KONG IBIGIN KITA
2 (DTS)	ANG TANGING INA
3 (DOLBY)	THE HULK
4	SANIB

Cinema 2000 Pavilion Mall

(Biñan) tel (049) 411.1146

1	ANG TANGING INA
2 (DOLBY)	PANGARAP KONG IBIGIN KITA
3 (DTS)	THE HULK
4	SANIB

Cinema 2000 Cinemagix

(Urdaneta) tel(075) 568.6771

1	PANGARAP KONG IBIGIN KITA
2	ANG TANGING INA
3 (DOLBY)	BERTUD NG PUTIK
4	

Cinema 2000 MetroTown

(Tarlac) tel(045) 982.1729

1	PANGARAP KO ANG IBIGIN KA
2	SANIB
3 (DOLBY)	THE HULK
4 (DTS)	BRUCE ALMIGHTY

Magic Star Cinema

(Tarlac City) tel (045) 611.4305

1 (DOLBY)	THE HULK
2 (DTS)	SANIB
3	OPERATION BALIKATAN

Lianas Cinema

(Alabang) tel 850.1276

1 (SDDS)	BIGAY HILIG
2	THE HULK
3 (DTS)	BERTUD NG PUTIK
4	ANG HULING BIRHEN SA LUPA

Lianas MovieCity

(Calamba) tel (049) 545.7202

1 (DOLBY)	PANGARAP KONG IBIGIN KITA
2	BERTUD NG PUTIK
3 (DTS)	THE HULK
4	ANG HULING BIRHEN SA LUPA
5	SANIB

Olivarez Tri-Cinema

(Biñan) tel (049) 511.8883

1	THE HULK
2	ANG HULING BIRHEN SA LUPA
3	SANIB

Olivarez Los Baños

tel (049) 249.2558

1	SANIB
2	ANG HULING BIRHEN SA LUPA
3	THE HULK

Mega Center Mall

(Cabanatuan City) tel (044) 463.3283

1	SANIB
2	THE HULK
3 (DTS)	PANGARAP KONG IBIGIN KITA
4 (DOLBY)	BERTUD NG PUTIK

Cabuyao

(Laguna City) tel (049) 531.4808

1 (DTS)
2 (DTS)

Emperor

(Rosario Cavite) tel (046) 438.1657

1	SANIB
2	BIGAY HILIG
3	

Fiesta World Mall

(Lipa) tel (043) 981.0790

1	OPERATION BALIKATAN
2	SO CLOSE
3	THE HULK
4	PANGARAP KONG IBIGIN KITA

Jade Cinema

(Angeles City) tel (045)887-6001 TO 03

1 (DOLBY EX)	ALAB NG LAHI
2	PANGARAP KO ANG IBIGIN KA
3 (DTS ES)	THE HULK
4	RING O

Cine Nepo Mall

(Angeles City) te (045) 887-0121

1	PANGARAP KONG IBIGIN KITA
2	ALAB NG LAHI
3 (DOLBY)	THE HULK
4 (DTS)	THE HULK

*Movies are subject to change without prior notice

ADVANCED SCREENING THX DOLBY dts SDDS

FESTIVAL CINEMA

Festival Supermall
Filinvest - Alabang
Tel. 85035-71 to 72

NOW SHOWING

SM CINEMA

SM Dial-A-Movie Tel. 833-9999

NOW SHOWING

SM CITY BACOOR

4173869

1	BRUCE ALMIGHTY
2	BERTUD NG PUTIK
3	HULK
4	ANG TANGING INA
5	HULK
6	SANIB
7	PANGARAP KO ANG IBIGIN KA
8	HULING BIRHEN SA LUPA

SM CENTERPOINT

7149822 -7161416

1	ANG TANGING INA
2	HULK
3	HULK
4	HULING BIRHEN SA LUPA
5	HULK
6	DARKNESS FALLS
7	BRUCE ALMIGHTY
8	BERTUD NG PUTIK
9	PANGARAP KO ANG IBIGIN KA
10	SANIB

SM CITY FAIRVIEW

9350749

1	HULING BIRHEN SA LUPA
2	OPERATION BALIKATAN
3	ALAB NG LAHI
4	HULK
5	SANIB
6	BERTUD NG PUTIK
7	HULK
8	DARKNESS FALLS
9	ANG TANGING INA
10	PANGARAP KO ANG IBIGIN KA
11	BRUCE ALMIGHTY
12	HULK

SM CITY MANILA

5239240

1	SANIB
2	BERTUD NG PUTIK
3	OPERATION BALIKATAN
4	PANGARAP KO ANG IBIGIN KA
5	HULING BIRHEN SA LUPA
6	ALAB NG LAHI
7	HULING BIRHEN SA LUPA
8	OPERATION BALIKATAN
9	SANIB
10	ALAB NG LAHI
11	BERTUD NG PUTIK
12	PANGARAP KO ANG IBIGIN KA

SM MEGAMALL

6331801 • 6329401

1	HULK
2	THE MATRIX RELOADED
3	HULK
4	BRUCE ALMIGHTY
5	PANGARAP KO ANG IBIGIN KA
6	DARKNESS FALLS
7	HULING BIRHEN SA LUPA
8	ALAB NG LAHI
9	ANG TANGING INA
10	HULK
11	SANIB
12	BERTUD NG PUTIK

SM CITY NORTH EDSA

9296452

1	BERTUD NG PUTIK
2	ANG TANGING INA
3	HULING BIRHEN SA LUPA
4	SANIB
5	PANGARAP KO ANG IBIGIN KA
6	BRUCE ALMIGHTY
7	HULK
8	HULK

SM SOUTHMALL

8086888

1	SANIB
2	BRUCE ALMIGHTY
3	HULK
4	PANGARAP KO ANG IBIGIN KA
5	THE MATRIX RELOADED
6	DARKNESS FALLS
7	ANG TANGING INA
8	HULK
9	BERTUD NG PUTIK
10	HULING BIRHEN SA LUPA

SM CITY CEBU

2313878

1	HULK
2	BRUCE ALMIGHTY
3	THE HOURS
4	DARKNESS FALLS
5	HULING BIRHEN SA LUPA
6	PANGARAP KO ANG IBIGIN KA
7	ANG TANGING INA
8	HULK

SM CITY ILOILO

3209422

1	SANIB
2	CLOSED
3	HULK
4	HULING BIRHEN SA LUPA
5	PAKNERS
6	RING 0
7	CLOSED
8	ANG TANGING INA

SM CITY PAMPANGA

7128015

1	HULK
2	HULK
3	SO CLOSE
4	PANGARAP KO ANG IBIGIN KA
5	HULING BIRHEN SA LUPA
6	BERTUD NG PUTIK

SM SUPER CTR. SUCAT

8294975

1	HULK
2	PANGARAP KO ANG IBIGIN KA
3	HULK
4	ANG TANGING INA

SM CINEMA TUTUBAN

2514302

1	SANIB
2	BERTUD NG PUTIK
3	HULING BIRHEN SA LUPA
4	PANGARAP KO ANG IBIGIN KA

SM CITY DAVAO

2976998

1	HULK
2	RING 0
3	BRUCE ALMIGHTY
4	ANG TANGING INA
5	AGENT CODY BANKS
6	HULK

SM BICUTAN

776-3055

1	HULK
2	PANGARAP KO ANG IBIGIN KA
3	ANG TANGING INA
4	HULK

SM CITY CAGAYAN DE ORO

859-2684

1	AGENT CODY BANKS
2	DARKNESS FALLS
3	HULK
4	ANG TANGING INA

THE PODIUM CINEMA

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633-6976

1	HULK 11:10 FS/11:40 MF/2:30/5:20/8:10/ 10:30 LFS/11:00 LMF/1:20 END
2	HULK 11:05 MF/1:50/4:40/7:30/ 9:50 LFS/10:20 LMF/12:40 END

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3	HULK
4	THE GURU
5	PANGARAP KO ANG IBIGIN KA
6	DARKNESS FALLS
7	SANIB
8	HULING BIRHEN
9	ANG TANGING INA
10	BRUCE ALMIGHTY

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2	SANIB
3	BERTUD NG PUTIK
4	HULING BIRHEN
5	ALAB NG LAHI
6	BALIKATAN
7	PANGARAP KO ANG IBIGIN KA

Metro East - Marcos hway

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1	DARKNESS FALLS
2	HULK
3	ANG TANGING INA
4	HULK
5	BRUCE ALMIGHTY
6	SANIB
7	HULK
8	PANGARAP KO ANG IBIGIN KA

Novaliches

935- 3229 - 30

1	HULK
2	PANGARAP KO ANG IBIGIN KA
3	ANG TANGING INA
4	HULK
5	DARKNESS FALLS
6	BRUCE ALMIGHTY
7	SANIB
8	HULING BIRHEN

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2	BERTUD NG PUTIK
3	HULK
4	ANG TANGING INA

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2	HULK
3	ANG TANGING INA
4	PANGARAP KO ANG IBIGIN KA
5	SANIB
6	HULING BIRHEN

Imus

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1	HULK
2	BERTUD NG PUTIK
3	ANG TANGING INA
4	HULK
5	PANGARAP KO ANG IBIGIN KA
6	SANIB

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1	HULK
2	SANIB
3	PANGARAP KO ANG IBIGIN KA
4	ANG TANGING INA
5	HULING BIRHEN

Bacolod

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2	AGENT CODY BANKS
3	SANIB
4	PAKNERS
5	ANG TANGING INA
6	SOUL KEEPER

Iloilo

336- 8077 - 78

1	HULK
2	RING 0
3	PAKNERS
4	HULK
5	HULING BIRHEN
6	DAYO

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Lani headlines Crossover series

CROSSOVER 105.1 is treating its avid listeners to a different kind of musical special as they bring back the good old days, when solo performers dominated Manila's top music lounges via a new series, "Crossover Lounge Series."

The show starts July 5 and 12, 9 p.m., with Lani Misalucha performing at the Serendipity Lounge of Discovery Suites. The lounge is fast becoming a haven for some of the country's first-rate artists.

For a change, Lani performs in a cozy venue other than the big concert halls she has performed in the past.

SHOW TIME

MISALUCHA

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Araneta Center
ENTERTAINMENT GUIDE

ALI MALL CINEPLEX 7

Ali 1	PANGARAP KONG IBIGIN KITA
Ali 2	SANIB
Ali 3	BERTUD NG PUTIK
Ali 4	THE HULK
Ali 5	THE HULK
Ali 6	BRUCE ALMIGHTY
Ali 7	TANGING INA

ARANETA COLISEUM

JUNE 27	GMA ANNIVERSARY
JUNE 28	NCAA OPENING CEREMONIES
JULY 5	MARTIN & REGINE CONCERT
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JULY 13	UAAP GAMES

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MANILA

EASTERN	
MAXIM	CLOSED
MIRAMAR	SEX BOMB / RAMPADORA
ODEON	X-MEN 2
ODEON-2	BUKID AY BASA / KASIBULAN
ROBEN	BOLD STAR
TANDEM-1	SUGAT
TANDEM-2	KATAWAN MO LANGIT KO
TIMES	SPY / LEGEND OF CROCODILE

QUEZON CITY

ACT-1	SENSUAL ISLAND
ACT-2	KAYA KO PERO MASAKIT
ACT-3	ORIGINAL SIN
ACT-4	HANGGANG KAILAN KA PAPATAY
CORONET A	SEX DRIVE / JAIL BRIDE
CORONET B	A MAN APART
QUEZON-1	BERTUD NG PUTIK
REMAR	X-MEN 2
REMAR-2	BOLD STAR

NOVA MALL - NOVALICHES CINEMA

A	ALAB NG LAHI
B	BERTUD NG PUTIK
C	

MANDALUYONG CITY

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CINEMA-1	CLOSED FOR RENOVATION
CINEMA-2	CLOSED FOR RENOVATION

CAINTA RIZAL

STA. LUCIA EAST	(681-5401 TO 19)
CINEMA-1	BERTUD NG PUTIK
CINEMA-2	PAKNERS
CINEMA-3	BIGAY HILIG
CINEMA-4 (DOLBY DIGITAL)	HULK
CINEMA-5 (DTS)	HULK
CINEMA-6	HULING BIRHEN SA LUPA
CINEMA-7	MATRIX - RELOADED
CINEMA-8	OPERATION BALIKATAN
CINEMA-9 (DTS)	HULK
CINEMA-10 (DOLBY DIGITAL)	HULK
CINEMA-11 (SDDS)	SANIB
CINEMA-12	ANG TANGING INA
CINEMA-14	BRUCE ALMIGHTY
CINEMA-15	PANGARAP KO ANG IBIGIN KA

LORES

CINEMA-2	SENSUAL ISLAND
CINEMA-3	KAYA KO PERO MASAKIT

NE CINEMAGIC - CABANATUAN

CINEMA 1	BERTUD NG PUTIK
CINEMA 2	PANGARAP KO ANG IBIGIN KA
CINEMA 3	HULK
CINEMA 4	SANIB

UNIWIDE COASTAL MALL

(PARAÑAQUE)	SENSUAL ISLAND
CINEMA-1	KAYA KO PERO MASAKIT
CINEMA-2	MEN IN BLACK II
CINEMA-4	SELDA

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THE HULK PG13 11:45,2:45, 5:45,8:45	BRUCE ALMIGHTY PG13 1:00,3:10,5:20, 7:30,9:40	THE HULK PG13 1:30,4:30, 7:30,10:30

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THE HULK
12:00, 2:45,
5:30, 8:15
PG13

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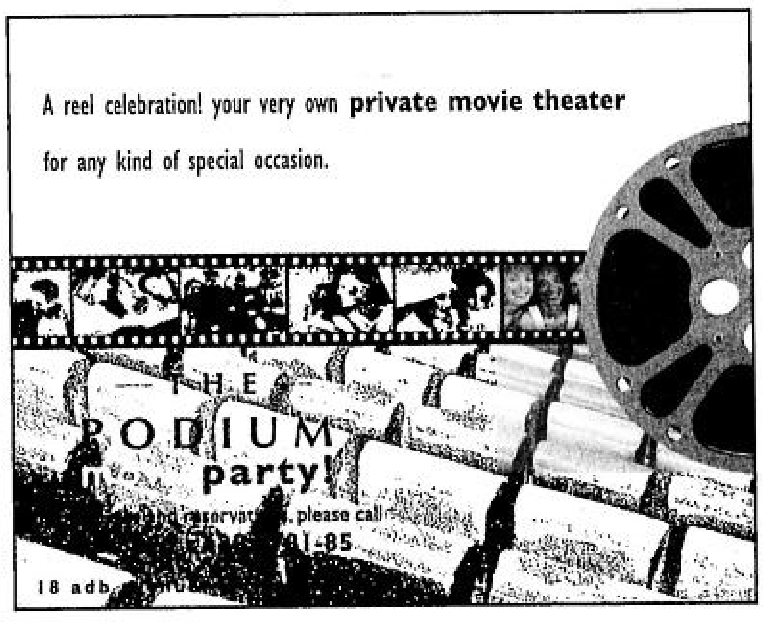
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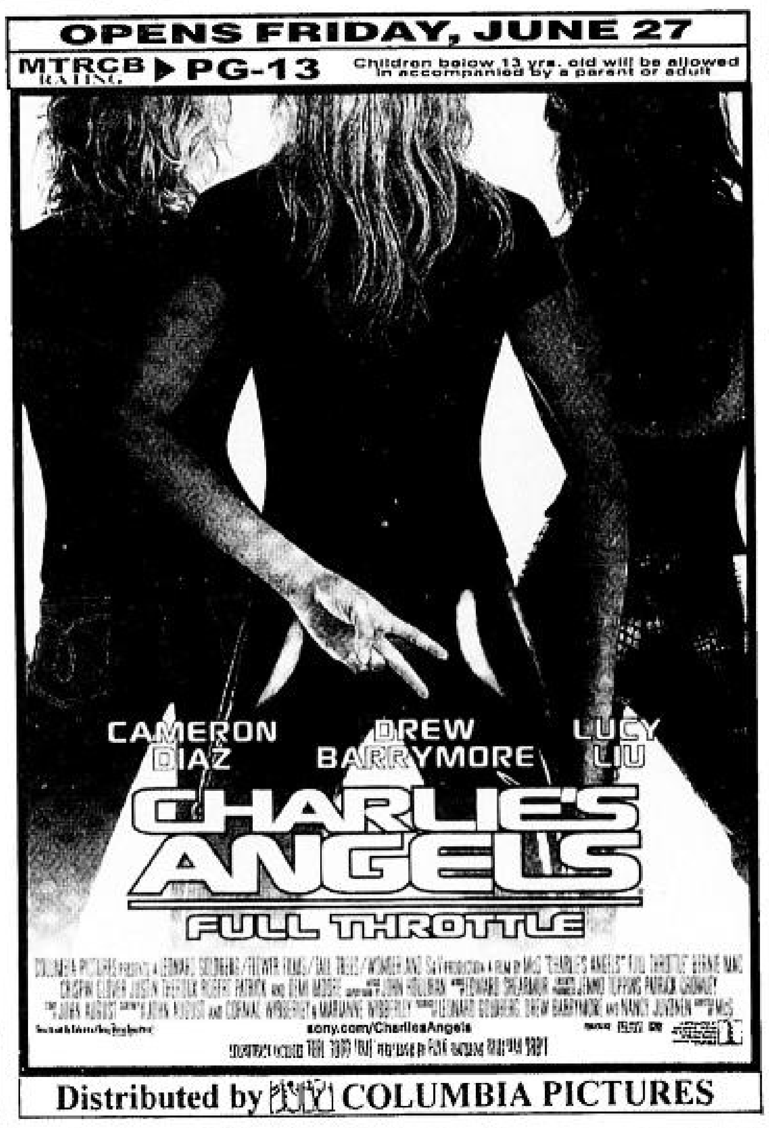
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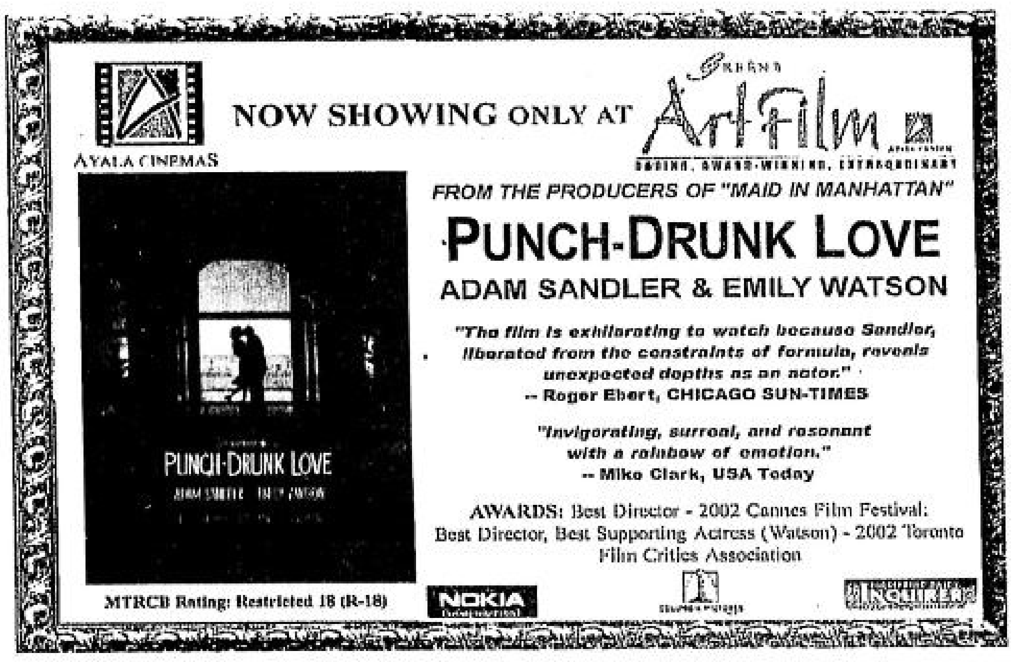
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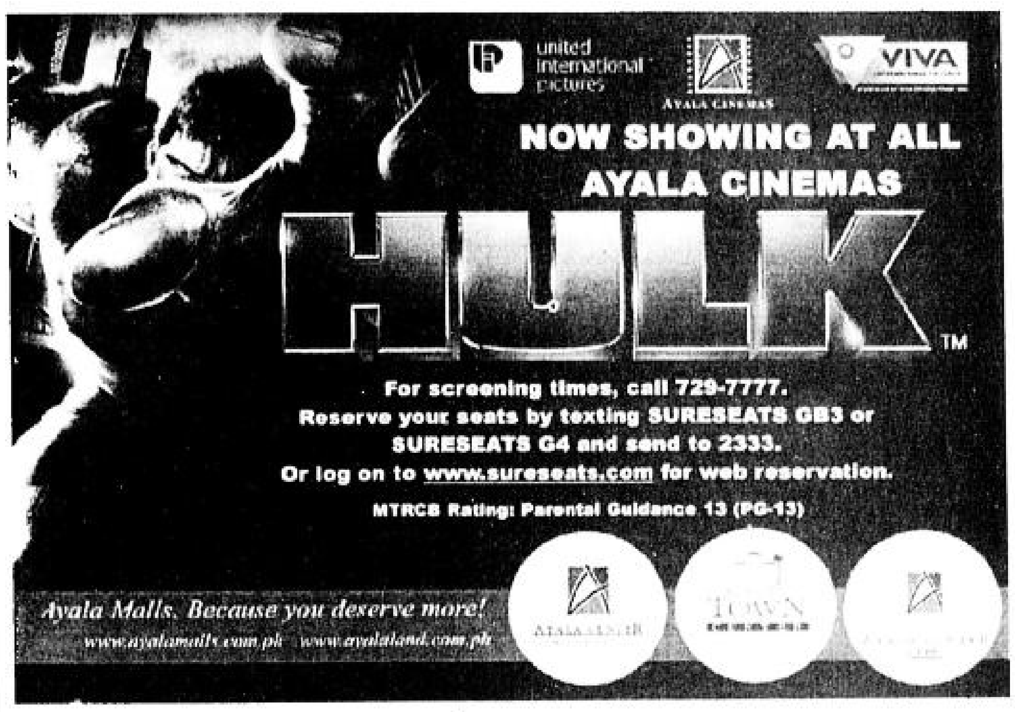
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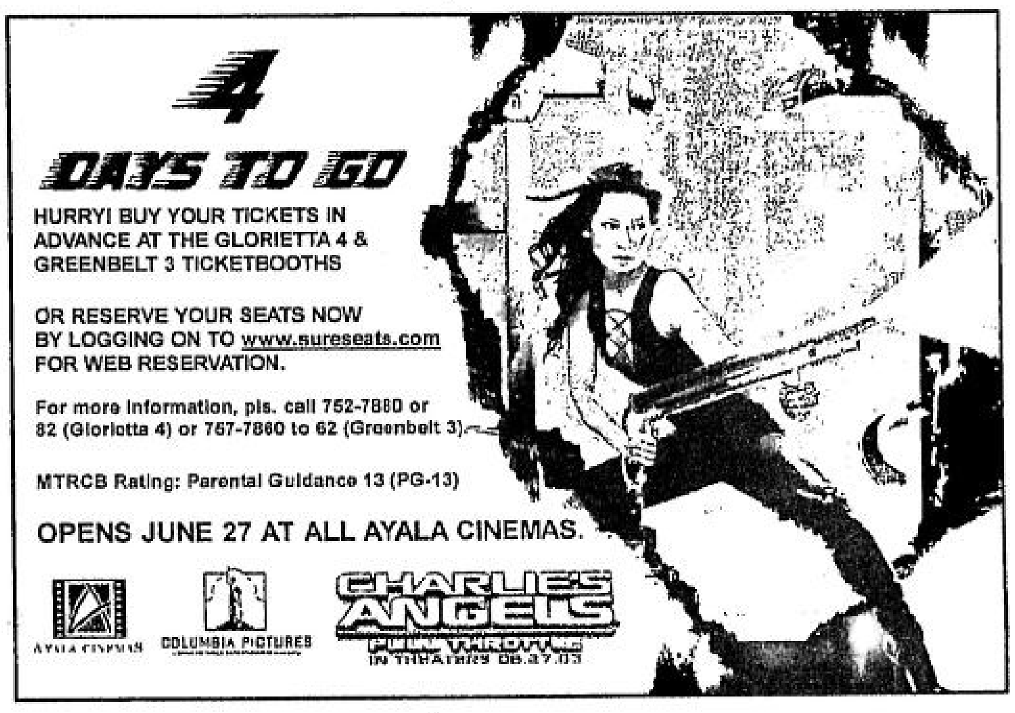
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OPENS JUNE 27 AT ALL AYALA CINEMAS.

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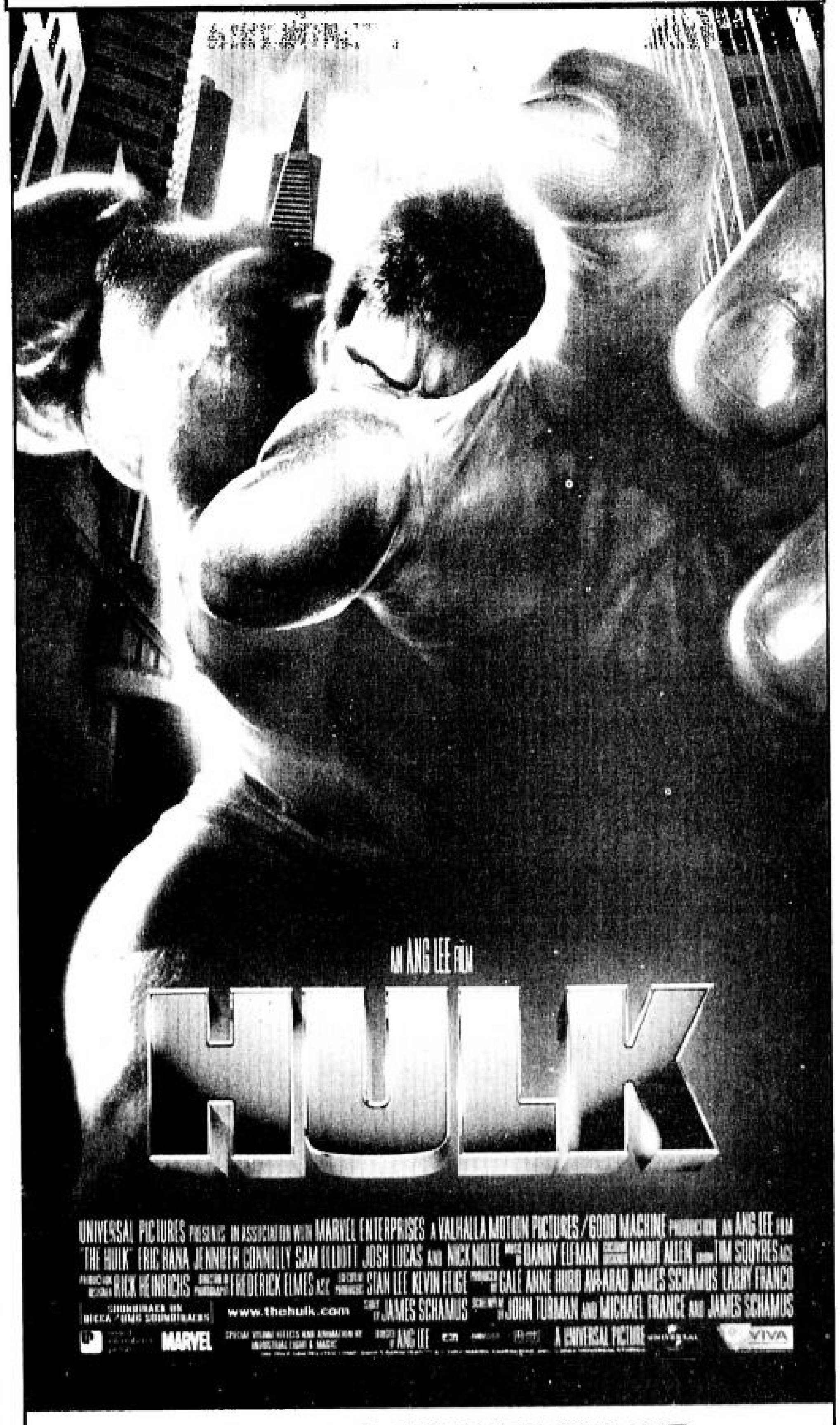
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AMONG her faves are a Saigon silk dress and a Fino bag that keeps her hands free

THE COLORS make this shirt too easy to remember.

HER 'Gigi' shoes

Robert and Isay's houseful of memories

From page C8

on in the dressing room, feeling *ko magsasagala ako.*"

His favorite neckties. "I hardly wear neckties now because I find it difficult to sing when wearing a necktie. But I love this Mickey Mouse necktie because a lot of people notice me when I wear it. Cute *daw.* My second favorite necktie is this Versace I bought in Paris in 1993."

His current favorite watch. "I got this from Oakley. Isay bought an Oakley, too."

Her favorite watch. "It's a solid-gold Rolex given by a friend. I use it not on special occasions but when I pick up my kids or go to market. People wouldn't think I'm wearing expensive things because I'm in a public place."

Her favorite accessories. "I got this pair of necklace and bracelet in London. I didn't want to buy them because I found them expensive but Robert said they were worth it. I've not seen a design as intricate."

His favorite jeans. "This hipster pair is from Levi's. *Bagay ba?* I'm still working on my abs."

His favorite polo shirt. "This used to be my favorite because it has psychedelic colors: I wear this almost every weekend. But I think it's not good because the style is easily remembered. People might think I don't have anything else to wear."

Her favorite jeans. "This was given to me by my best friend, Jenine Desiderio. She wore this when she was still fat! I play around with it on my shows because there are zippers on both legs. I can flirt with my audience and say, 'hello, *may* slit *ako.*'"

His favorite jacket. "I like wearing it because it keeps me warm and still makes me look fashionable. I don't have to put on a sweater under it. I also like it because it's rugged. I bought it in London for around 150 pounds."

She: "O my God! *Ang mahal!* And you told me it was only 60 pounds!"

He: "I didn't want you to get angry. *Pero kita mo naman,* mommy, six years *na.*"

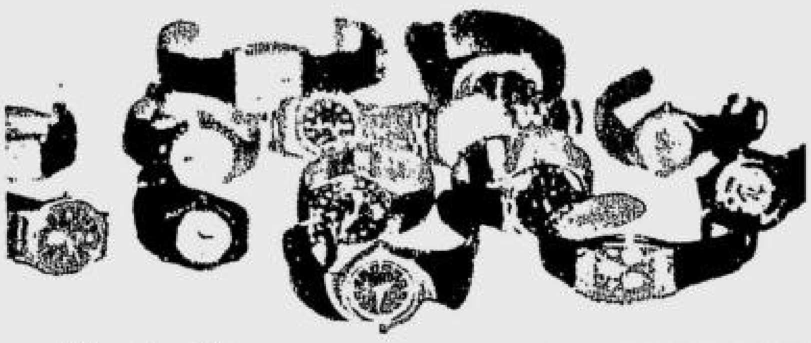
She: "It's still denim to me."

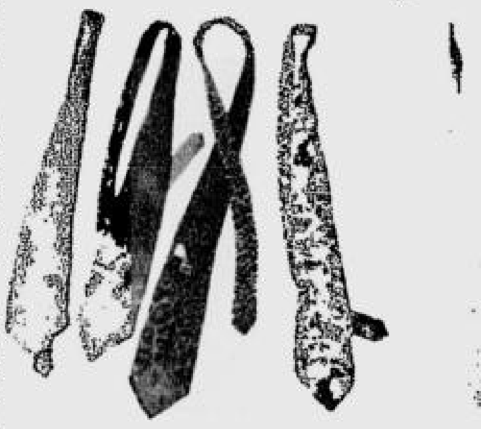
Her favorite jacket. "I got this from Mango. I wear it before and after lounge shows, when I'm wearing halter tops or backless dresses."

His favorite tuxedo. "This is a Giorgio Armani. I'm proud to say Isay and I bought this in an Armani shop in Rome. *Dito napunta ang lahat ng* savings *ko.* Our house was burglarized one New Year's Eve and the first thing we looked for were our Armanis."

Her current favorite bag. "I've been looking for a Prada in this style but I couldn't find any. I use this whenever I travel because it keeps my hands free. I'm happy with this bag because it is locally made. It's made of leather and it's from Fino."

WHEN stepping out, he likes to wear comfy casuals, as well as any one of his watch collection (below)





HER Patis Tesoro gown, his seldom-worn ties.

Her favorite nightshirt. "These are big men's shirts of the musicals I've done like 'Chorus Line,' 'Once on this Island' and 'Rama at Sita.'"

His favorite nightshirt. "I don't like wearing T-shirts to bed. *Nasasakal ako. Sandos* and boxer shorts are perfect for me."

Manila episode . . .

From page C1

correspondent in a recent exclusive interview in downtown Los Angeles.

"I apologized and I meant it," the Hollywood actress said when asked if she has put in perspective the controversy stirred by her comments about Manila.

Danes spoke with a serious mien as she talked about the furor incited by her published impressions of Manila. She made the controversial remarks after filming "Brokedown Palace" in the Philippines.

In September 1998, she told the American magazine Premiere: "Manila smelled of cockroaches with rats all over, and there is no sewerage system and the people do not have anything—no arms, no legs, no eyes."

Danes was in Manila in January 1998 to film "Brokedown Palace," with Bill Pullman and Kate Beckinsale, directed by Jonathan Kaplan. In April of the same year, Vogue magazine had also featured Danes, where she described Manila as a "ghastly and weird city."

Then-President Joseph Estrada banned Danes' movies in the country.

During this interview, Danes said, "I felt terrible about it because the consequences were so awful. What happened was really strange. Those comments were really taken out of context, distorted and blown out of proportion. My apology was sincere. The whole thing was so extreme. I have to get over it at this point."

Last-minute offer

Danes, now 24, has since continued to appear in small, independent movies. She was last seen notably as Meryl Streep's daughter in the acclaimed "The Hours," which was an exception for it was hardly a "small" film.

The low-key, indie film actress is now in the special effects/action/stunt-packed "Terminator 3: Rise of the Machines" which has all the loud trimmings of a big Arnold Schwarzenegger summer movie.

Asked if she thought twice and hard about appearing in a "Terminator" movie, the Yale-educated Danes replied, "I had no time to hesitate because I was offered the role literally the evening before I started working on the set. They had hired a new actress, Sophia Bush, who hadn't worked extensively before, and who proved to be too young for the role.

State of delirium

"I was in Australia with my boyfriend (Australian singer-songwriter Ben Lee) on a holiday. I came to LA expecting to be here for only three days to cushion the jet lag before I went back to New York.

"The evening that I landed in LA, I got a hysterical call from my agent," she continued and proceeded to mimic a hyperventilating Hollywood agent. She said the following two sentences virtually as one sentence, except for brief dramatic gasps for air: "I got a call from the 'Terminator 3' set! They want to hire you!' So they sent me the script. I had to read and assess it."

She explained why she accepted a role in a Schwarzenegger movie. "I'm always in a state of delirium. I'm in a state of delirium now. I just came from London last night from rehearsing a movie. Anyway, I didn't have any sense in me that night my agent told me about the 'Terminator' offer. I said, yeah, okay, I'll make this huge shoot-em-up picture."

Fun with Stahl

We should be grateful to director Jonathan Mostow for having the guts to decide, a week after Sophia Bush had been filming her scenes, that she was too young for the pivotal role of Kate Brewster. (It also took guts for Mostow to tell aspiring actress Bush that her big role was being snatched from her.)

Danes and the soulful Nick Stahl (Sissy Spacek and Tom Wilkinson's son in the Oscar-nominated "In the Bedroom"), playing John Connor, whom Arnold's T-101 will protect at all costs, keep things interesting and are not swallowed by the movie's spectacular action scenes.

Freed from their "indie film" seriousness in this movie, the two young actors had a lot of fun on the set. Perhaps too much fun: "Nick and I would often just break in violent fits of laughter," she revealed. "We did quite a few scenes together. I had to be sent away. I had to be not on set.

"I certainly did more panting, running, and screaming in this film than I have in any other movie," declared the Golden Globe award winner for the lamentably short-lived TV series, "My So-Called Life."

In the neighborhood

Of her "T3" character, which we couldn't describe without revealing a crucial plot element in the movie, Danes remarked, "She's very authoritative and resourceful. I like that part about her. It was such a thrill that someone as competent, sane, dependable and focused is not at all exploited, sexualized or prettified."

Danes' first filming day with Schwarzenegger was fittingly as grand as this former Mr. Universe's persona. The scene was filmed right in this INQUIRER correspondent's Sunland neighborhood. When a new structure was being built at a nearby corner, we guessed it was finally a Starbucks branch. After weeks of serious construction, a vet clinic appeared. Only, it turned out to be Danes' vet character's clinic, blown to pieces in a matter of days, but that's giving away a plot element.

"I was so confused, I was so scared!" exclaimed Danes of her first scene with Mr. I'll-be-back right in my neighborhood. "My thought was parallel to what was going through my character's mind. Like, oh my God, where have I found myself, what is happening, there's a very scary man fast approaching, but I, Claire, knew who the Terminator was. Kate didn't.

"It was so surreal to see Arnold as this iconic persona encircled by flames and I'm literally shaking on the ground. It wasn't a stretch. It was very 'method.'"

Arnie's funny advice

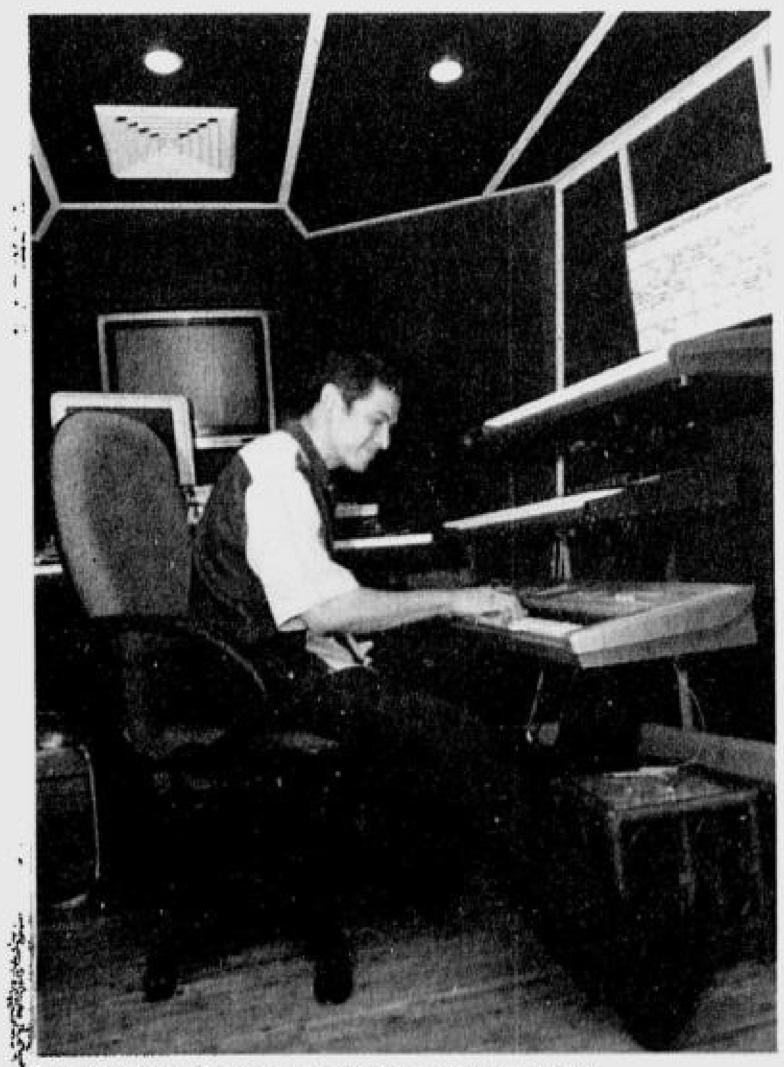
Asked to give a striking anecdote about the famously muscular actor, Danes obliged: "He would give me relationship advice which I thought was kind of funny." In what way? Danes smoothed it out first: "He's actually quite perceptive and can be very, very driven, which I didn't expect from him."

So what kind of funny advice does the Terminator give? "Sort of cheeky. He likes teasing people and making them squirm. So he would ask me very intimate questions about my relationship with Ben, my girlfriends."

In a girlish tone, she said of how she reacted to him, "I don't know, I don't want to go there. He would prod but sometimes his advice is very insightful, very helpful."

Is she ready to finally gain wider popularity with the release of "T3"? "No," she answered. "I've never participated in a film that has the kind of cult status that this does have. And I know sci-fi fans can become avid, very involved in the fantasy."

IN ACTION in Arnie's big new movie



WHERE MUSIC is made, Gary V also prays and plays.

Gary V's mistress and his wife

From page C2

and sing your heart out, Gary.' Okay, this is my argument. My ballads are very emotional. When you give an audience one emotional song after another, after a while, they'll get tired even without dancing. It can be draining."

Billy Graham moments

There were both ballads and dancing in what Gary considers the highest points of his career. Both times were with evangelist Billy Graham. One happened in Amsterdam. Gary sang and danced before a throng of 11,000 people, including a small Filipino congregation, in a show that was broadcast in more than 185 countries. He sang "Could You Be My Messiah," "Take Me Out of the Dark" and "Shout for Joy."

Another Graham moment happened in Puerto Rico, in a show that had a 2,000-member choir as backdrop, and that was also aired in many countries. Gary thought about 30 artists would be performing and he would be just one of them. It turned out he was one of only four, the others being one from Puerto Rico, and Michael W. Smith and Steve Green. "In the Christian recording industry," explains Angeli, "Smith and Green are two of the most respected artists, probably the top two most respected artists."

And Gary V of the Philippines was now among them, in that Puerto Rico gathering. He sang "Letting Go," after which, says Angeli with a little girl's thrill, "Graham came up to me and gave me the thumbs-up sign."

But in Gary's life and career put together, higher even than these high moments are the peak: "My children," he says. "They're all healthy, they're all great kids. They're all like me in many ways, but I think the second one, Gabriel, is more like me than the others. He is a dancer, and he likes playing instruments.

"The eldest, Paolo, is more of an actor and director. He wants to go into film, which I also wanted to do when I was 16 when I had a super-8 camera and I made my own movies and experimented with motion and stop-motion with clay figures, and even explosions."

Does he play favorites with his kids?

"If the kids were all the same character, I'd probably have favorites," the father replies. "But they're so different that I can't have one without the others. Gab is a sportsman, that's why I like playing ball with him and dancing with him."

Of the only girl, Kiana, Angeli says, "I think her character is me. But her goofiness is very Gary."

Gary V goofy?

"Super!" exclaims Angeli. "Gary is a comedian. The kids love that side of Gary. Martin and Gary are twins, except that Gary's a little bit more reserved. Martin is like, *kapal,* you know? Gary's reserved, but not in front of friends and us. Super goofy! Jim Carrey goofy!"

His unseen side

She tells of Gary's meeting Warner Bros. voice director for animation Andrea Romano, an Emmy winner, who has worked with Spielberg and who was very impressed with Gary. Romano gave him a script so he could audition to voice animation, according to Angeli. "When Paolo found out we met the Warner voice director for animation, he said, 'Can you tell her about papa?' The kids know that Gary can do, like, 50 voices. He can do so many voices."

In the background, Gary, in a deep, guttural voice, growls, "Nooo!"

When Gary performed in another concert in San Diego, California just last month, Romano was to there to watch, and to ask him about recording. "He still didn't do it," says Angeli, exasperated. "*Hay, naku!*"

Says Gary, in his own natural voice, "I'd like people to see that side, but not right now."

Right now, he says, what he would like to do is music for commercials. "It's fun," he says, now eating *buko* sherbet around midnight, for his diabetes. "Jingles, not really. And I would like to score films again. I'd like to go to school, in the US, to take up audio engineering."

Right now, people still love what they see and hear of Gary Valenciano and his music and dancing, even without the goofiness.

And so does Angeli P. Valenciano who, after 17 years, still looks at the man and his moves with a lot of love, and awe.

The deodorant dudes are now recording artists

SHOWBIZ TIDBITS

Leah Salterio

WHO would have thought that commercial and fashion models **Jordan Herrera, Greg Martin, Jay Salas** and **Frank Garcia** have a talent for singing?

Most people will recognize them as the guys in the Rexona TV ad, the same ad that made them overnight sensations and paved the way for their entry in show biz. Now their individual talents and good looks have been combined to make up the newest boy band, Power Four, or P4, which has just released its self-titled debut album from Universal Records.

Remember the song "Everybody," which they did in the Rexona commercial? The tune made popular by Backstreet Boys has been rearranged for the P4 album by **Ito Rapadas**, formerly of Neocolours. P4's first public exposure as a group in that commercial endeared them to millions of fans all over the country. Now, they recorded their version of the song.

Jordan's memorable line in that commercial, "*Wala ba kayong mga kamay*," inspired young songwriter **Jerico Rimas** to write a full-length cut he called, what else, "Wala Ba Kayong mga Kamay?"

P4's debut album is bannered by the first single, "Oochie Coochie," a dance cut. Greg provides the rap in the track, which also comes with a remix by DJ MOD (Master of Disaster, a.k.a. **Noel Macanaya**).

P4 has a romantic ballad in "I Believe in You," an original by **Arnie Mendaros**, which he also arranged and produced. Arnie also wrote "I Could Fly."

"Rock Me All Nite," written and produced by DJ MOD, is another infectious dance item.

P4 also recorded **Rod Stewart**'s classic, "Do Ya Think I'm Sexy."

"Make It With You" is an original ballad popularized by Bread in the '70s.

And now for trivia on the P4 members:

Greg, whose real name is Gregory Filipovich, was born on Dec. 13, 1980. He is also into martial arts, boxing, gymnastics, break dancing and sculpting. He has done other TV commercials like Globe, Dari Creme Light, Kentucky Fried Chicken, Del Monte Spaghetti Sauce. His mottos: "Stop crab mentality," "Eat to live, don't live to eat."

Jordan is Jordan Hermogenes in real life and was born on April 24, 1983. Among his hobbies are playing computer games and basketball. For him, "time is gold." But when he's not busy, Jordan hangs out with Jay, Frank and Greg.

FROM locker room to recording studio (from left): Frank Garcia, Jay Salas, Greg Martin and Jordan Herrera

Frank is Frank Frederick Groenenboom, born on Jan. 4, 1984. His hobbies are reading, writing and swimming. He is an Internet software technology major at the Mapua Institute of Technology. Among his other commercials are Sarsi, Colgate, Wanwan Biscuits, Citibank and Jollibee. He reasons out that "If you have somebody, give your body."

Jay is Jay Tugas in real life, born on Nov. 21, 1980. He is into mixing and setting up cars, martial arts, hosting and acting. He is a business management major in entrepreneurship at St. Benedict College. He has appeared in TV ads for Nestea, Sharp, HSBC Bank, Cream-O, Safeguard, Greenwich Pizza and Nova. His principle: "No guts, no glory."

Lead and villain

IF YOU still remember, **Victor Neri** started out as a popular teen actor playing boy-next-door types. But as he matures as a performer, he proves his mettle in drama, shifting from playing leads to villains with ease.

VICTOR plays villain in "Masamang Ugat."

On TV, Victor appears as a romantic lead in "Habang Kapiling Ka." In the movies, he has tried his hand at action and in *contravida* roles, like in his latest screen assignment, "Masamang Ugat," which stars presidential son **Mikey Macapagal-Arroyo** for Viva Films.

Victor is no stranger to villain roles. He has done it in movies like "Utol" with **Cesar Montano** and "Iskalawag" with **Raymart Santiago**.

"Before I did lead roles in action movies, I went through doing *contravida* roles, but they were not as vicious as this one in 'Masamang Ugat,'" says Victor, who plays Darwin, the son of **Eddie Garcia** and the half-brother of Mikey and **Ace Vergel** whom he both wants to kill, not knowing he and Ace are blood brothers.

Victor claims he enjoys doing anti-hero roles. "It's very different and I get to be a different character throughout the movie," he shares. "It's something I haven't done in a long time. I think people who have watched my movies wouldn't mind me doing something like this. In real life, I'm a very mild-mannered guy. I'm not as mean and vicious as my role here."

Victor has made his mark as a junior action hero in movies like "Suspek" and "Notoryus," both directed by **Toto Natividad**. But it was in "Utol" where he realized he was meant to be in the action field. He admires the likes of Eddie Garcia, who can do both lead and villain roles. He had the opportunity to work with the versatile actor in the action-comedy "Tigasin."

"Eddie Garcia is an idol to every actor," Victor says. "He can handle both *bida* and *contravida* roles. It's such a joy to work with him again. In the last movie we did together, *nag-aasaran kami palagi*. This time, I'm his son and both our characters are mean."

"Masamang Ugat" also stars **Al Tantay, Vanna Garcia, Gwen Garci** and **Maui Taylor**.

A girl for Jessica

JESSICA Rodriguez nearly lost her life when she gave birth early Friday morning to a girl, her firstborn with athlete husband **David Bunevacz**.

Jessica lost so much blood and her uterus had to be taken out during the Caesarian operation. But she survived it and delivered a healthy baby whom the couple named **Breanna Sophia**.

During her delicate pregnancy, Jessica was confined several times at the Cardinal Santos Memorial Medical Center, where she also gave birth. Once, she had to be confined for two months.

Jessica and David were married in elaborate ceremonies in December 2000. Among their principal sponsors was extradited Manila Rep. **Mark Jimenez**.

Jessica has two kids from a previous relationship with actor **Benedict Aquino**.

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Testing the limits of fear and endurance

VIEWFINDER

Nestor U. Torre

WHEN "Fear Factor" started telecasting on the AXN action channel, many viewers hailed the reality adventure competition for its cutting-edge format of testing the limits of fear and endurance.

Each week on the show, physically fit contestants, both male and female, are subjected to a series of three tests of either physical strength or psychological and gustatorial fortitude. Contestants who fail the tests are sequentially eliminated, and the winner gets a really cool $50,000 for having been able to face up to and conquering his primal fears.

Now on its third year, "Fear Factor" has "inspired" other physical-psychological tests on TV, including some really yucky or TH ones on local television.

At first, the show was eminently viewable, but it has since come in for criticism for pushing its limits even further, and occasionally subjecting contestants to extreme situations that some viewers feel are too dangerous or demeaning.

Of course, the people behind the show deny such charges, and point out that everything in the show is on a voluntary basis, and contestants can drop out anytime.

For our part, we are a little fed up with seeing so many snakes, maggots, cow's brains and bull's gonads that contestants have to either endure or ingest on their way to the show's top prize. There must be a way of being scary without being quite so predictably yucky.

On the other hand, viewers are curious about what "Fear Factor" has lined up for them this season, so here are executive producer **Matt Kunitz**'s preview notes on future episodes of the "primal fear" program:

"Watch out for stunts that include contestants trying to survive a gas chamber, with policemen throwing gas right at them, and a pit with 3,000 live scorpions (those creepy-crawlies, again!), and a chamber full of bees.

"There's also an episode where contestants milk a goat. Sounds simple, but they have to do it with their mouths."

What about serious injuries? "None so far, but we've had minor injuries like twisted ankles, torn muscles, those similar to what you get in a football game. In any case, the challenging stunts on the show are done under the supervision of professional Hollywood stunt coordinators."

What makes "Fear Factor" click with viewers? "They can relate to it. Viewers see ordinary people like them in the most extraordinary situations, conquering their greatest fears. That's greatly appealing to them. Also, note that there's no violence, no sex, no cursing. That makes 'Fear Factor' a great show to watch, even for kids. At present, it's the most viewed NBC show among kids two to 11 years old."

How are contestants screened? "From an open call for over 1,000 people, interviews eventually cut down that number to around 75. More detailed interviews are conducted, and the number is trimmed down to 35. We do screen tests and select the 20 best.

"We do background checks, and they have to go through medical exams, EKG, spillometry to make sure they're healthy individuals. About their looks, it's not just about being beautiful, it's about being extroverted, the life of the party."

Why do people compete in the show? "For money, fame and competition. Our show gives a new perspective on competition and winning."

What have you discovered after working on the show? "The human spirit is so strong that, once you put that fear back, you can do anything."

Is there a possibility that "Fear Factor" will have an Asian episode soon? "There is a possibility to open it to the Asian market, since the demand is high enough."

Opera excerpts

A SPECIAL show featuring tenors **Nolyn Cabahug** and **Ramon Acoymo** and soprano **Alexis Edralin** will be held today, June 23, at 9 p.m. at Merk's Bar Bistro. Pop, *kundiman* and Broadway songs will also be performed. Call 757-4721 or 20.

Art sale

THE CURRENT art sale at Donada Art Gallery has been extended until the end of June. The sale seeks to raise funds to support Dulaang Talyer's participation in Festival Off d' Avignon in France next month.

DT will be performing its multimedia production "Bilog" upon the invitation of the French Embassy. Call 400-0731, telefax 522-1977 or e-mail donada@skyinet.net.

Top composers write songs for Ruby Lizares

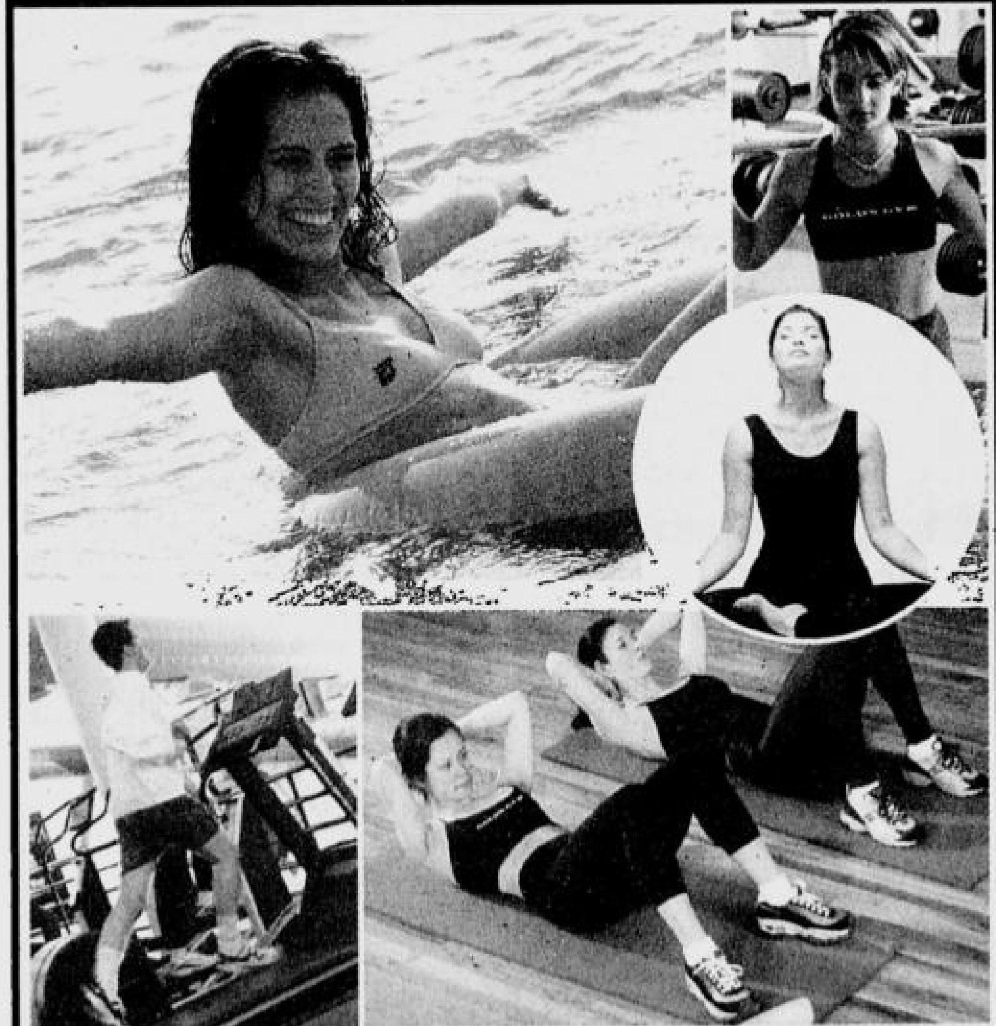
THE COUNTRY'S foremost illustrious composers—George Canseco, Vehnee Saturno, Trina Belamide and Tito Cayamanda—plus talented artists Mandy Araneta, Francis Muñoz, Allan Chu Jr. and Rene Barin gather together to work for the debut album of seasoned singer Ruby Lizares.

The album, "Simply Ruby Lizares," is under Galaxy Records International.

The album contains George Canseco's enchanting *kundiman* "Utos," Vehnee Saturno's "Sayang Lamang," "Ikaw Lamang Sinta," "Pinaibig Mo Pa," all pop ballads, "One Life To Live," "All I Wanna Do" (with Tito Cayamanda), "Pasasalamat" (with Allan Chu Jr.), Trina Belamide's "Made To Last" and "Color Me Blind," an upbeat melody with jazzy touch and Francis Muñoz and Rene Barin's "Hindi Na," now a number one hit in Bacolod City.

Also included are two songs which Ruby composed—"Time Moves On" and "Still Loving You" (both with music by Mandy Araneta).

"Simply Ruby Lizares" will be launched soon via an invitational concert.



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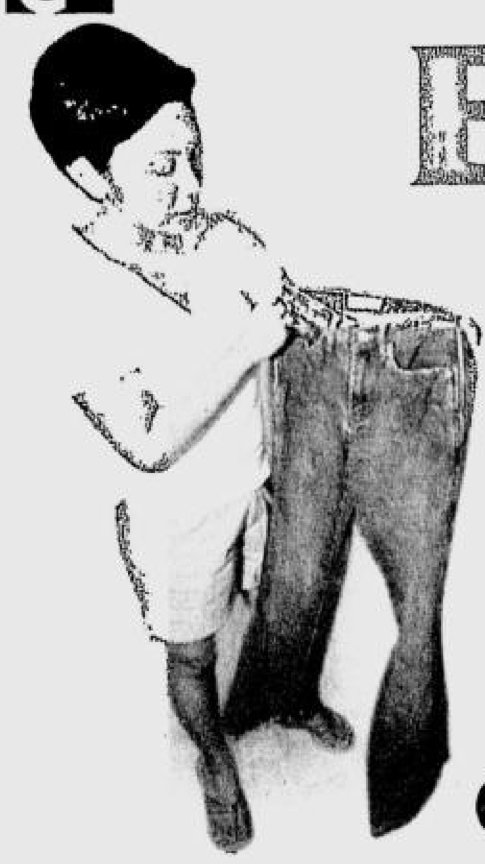

Robert and Isay's houseful of memories

HIS is a pair of Levi's hipsters, and hers (far left) is from fellow singer Jenine Desiderio
RANDY HORMILLOSA

By Marinel R. Cruz

SINGING couple Robert Seña and Isay Alvarez have closets in every room of their two-story house in Quezon City. Each closet holds memories of their times together abroad when they performed as members of the cast of stage musicals like "Miss Saigon" and "Jesus Christ Superstar."

Out of the Closet

Among the items in one closet on the ground floor are Isay's "Gigi" sandals from "Miss Saigon." Another closet keeps Robert's "most memorable" pair which he bought in London.

Isay played Gigi in the original 1988 "Miss Saigon" production on the West End in London, and kept the role for four years. London is where she first worked with Robert and where they eventually married.

A cabinet in the master bedroom has Robert's Giorgio Armani tuxedo, bought during a trip to Rome. Another cabinet has the silk dresses that Isay had especially made for her in Saigon.

In the room of their 11-year-old son Emilio are some of Robert's neckties, one of which he bought in a Versace shop in Paris. A closet just above the staircase contains Isay's favorite jeans and halter tops, as well as the blouses she wears whenever she does lounge shows as a member of the Ang Fourgettables.

In the attic are Robert's Gucci shoes, which he was wearing when he lost his balance and fell in the hallway of a London theater during the opening night of "Jesus Christ Superstar."

Isay's favorite high heels. "If I couldn't find the right clothes for a certain occasion, I would get these Nine West sandals and just look for a dress that would go with them."

Robert's favorite leather shoes. "This pair is from Tyler. I first wore them in an awards night. They're not too pointed, but they're not too wide either. Also, they sparkle on stage because of these buckles."

His most memorable shoes. "I really liked a pair of Gucci shoes so much that I bought it even if it was a size smaller than my 7 ½ size. *Pinilit ko talaga ang paa ko.* I lost my balance and fell the first time I wore them at the opening night of 'Jesus Christ Superstar' in London. I gave them to my production assistant later."

Her most memorable shoes. "My four-inch Gigi sandals. I wore these in 'Miss Saigon' in Manila. It's hard to perform wearing them but I've gotten used to them. This is how far I'd go with high heels. I can't wear stiletto because I have scoliosis."

His favorite casual shoes. "These are from Kik Wear. They are so worn out now but they are very comfortable. I like going all-black with them. Hip *ang dating!* I wear them on almost all of my TV appearances."

His all-weather shoes. "This pair is special because I bought this in London. I can wear it in winter, spring, summer or autumn. You know what's funny? *Kakalabas lang nito sa* Philippines a year ago but I've had this for almost six years now."

His gym shoes. "I use these for working out, rehearsals and everything. I can even dance in them. They make the wearer look like an experienced dancer."

Her favorite dress. "I got this from Mango, one of my favorite stores. This is one of the clothes that I wear when I can't think of anything else to wear. I feel very confident wearing this."

Her silk dresses. "I bought these in Saigon last year. In their flea markets, you can have silk dresses made according to your size and design and you can get the finished dresses the following day."

Her most memorable dress. "This Filipiñana dress was given by a friend whose parents were celebrating their wedding anniversary. Patis Tesoro made two of these, for Pinky Marquez and me, in different colors."

His favorite shirt. "This is from Armani. Red is my favorite color. The shirt makes my neck look long."

His least favorite shirt. "This was designed by a local designer. I wore this only once at a concert at the Cultural Center of the Philippines. The designer made me wear this because super *ganda raw sa akin.* He said it made me look young. But when I was trying it

ROBERT/ C6

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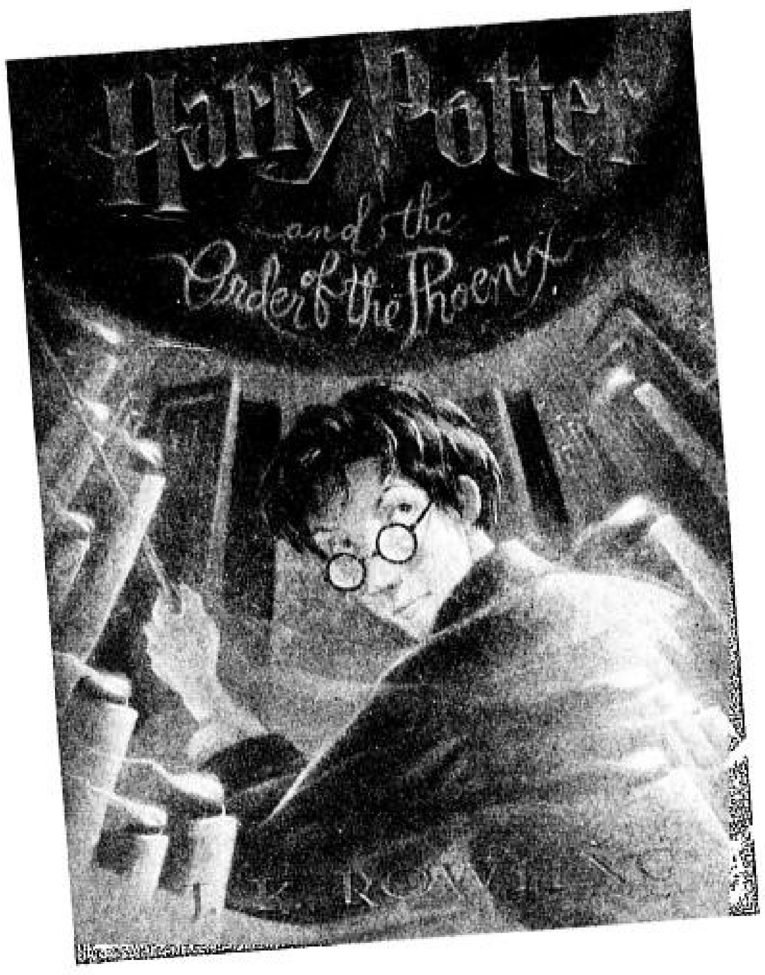

"Harry Potter and the Order of the Phoenix"
By J.K. Rowling
•Scholastic Press, New York

By Ruel S. De Vera

NOT even the Sorcerer's Stone can possibly enable any single book to live up to the hype and expectations of J.K. Rowling's fifth novel, "Harry Potter and the Order of the Phoenix."

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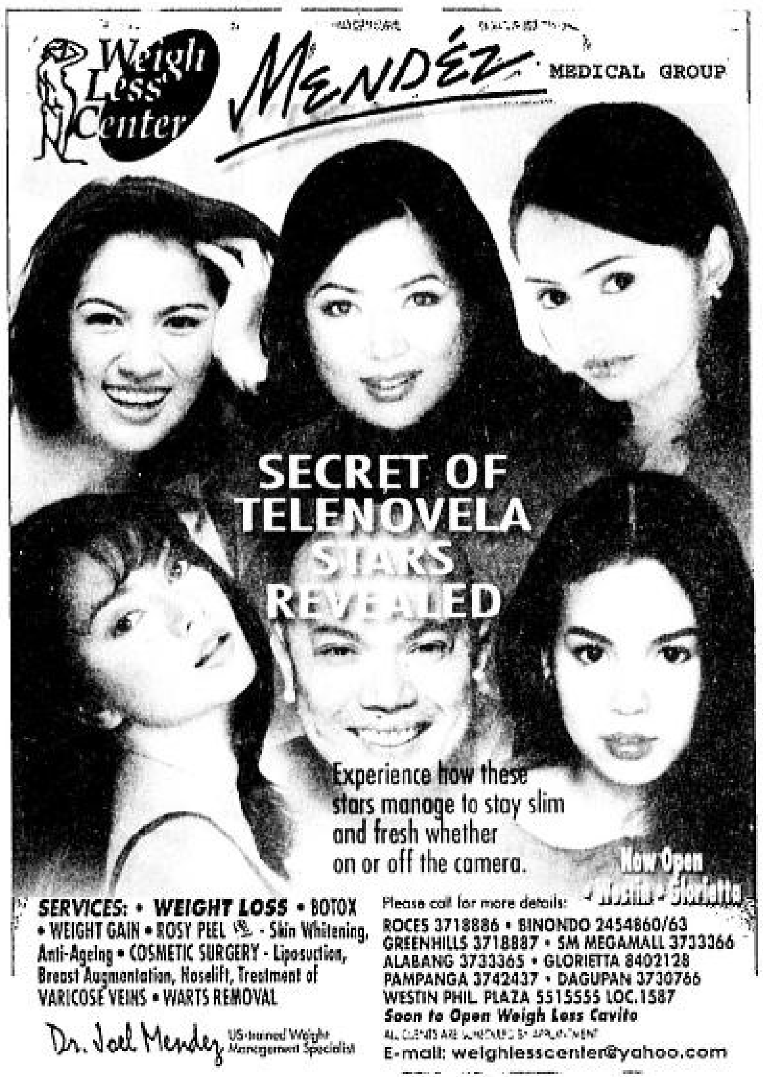
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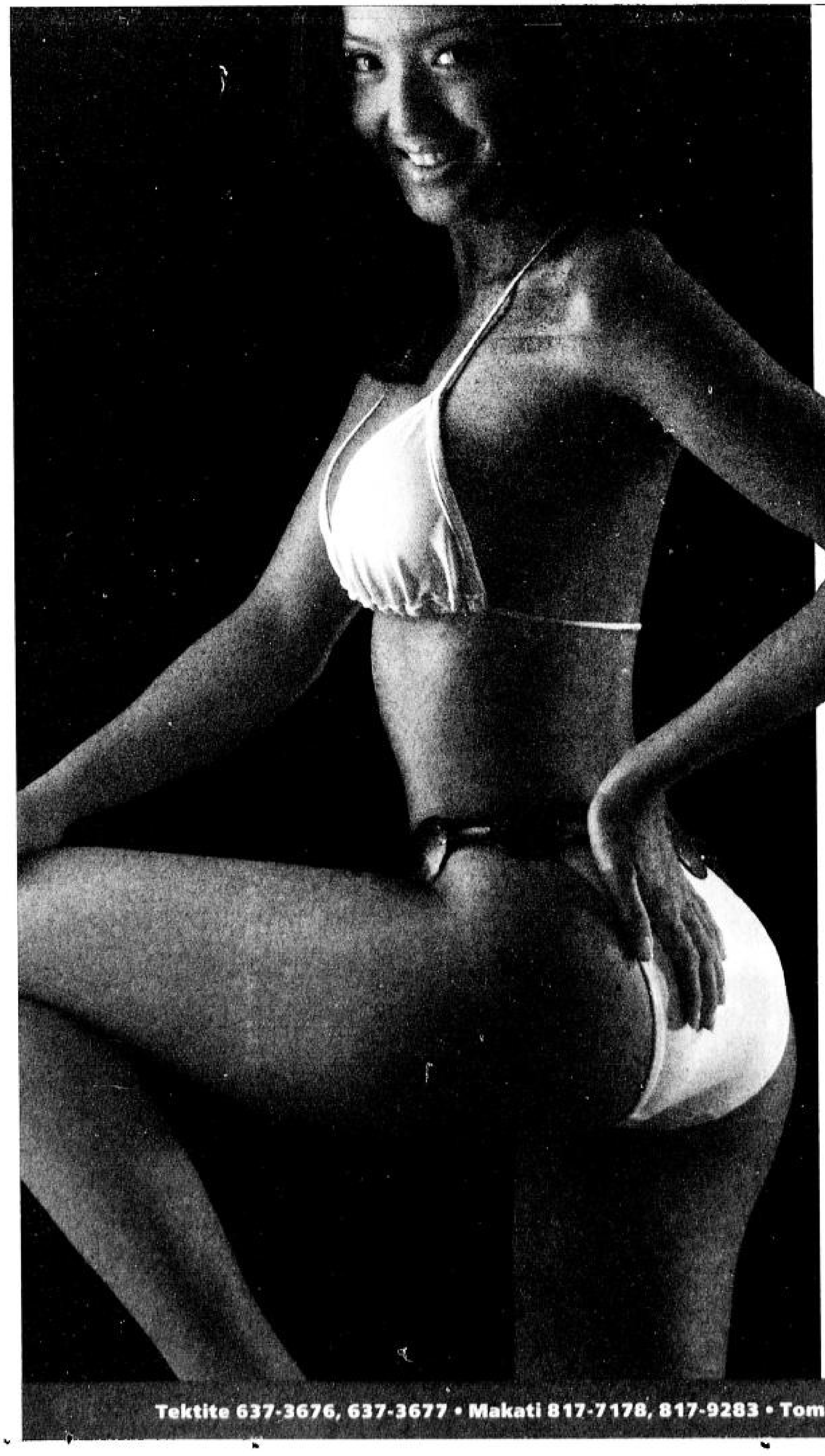
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Mercedes Matias Santiago, last of the great divas

She died neglected and unrecognized

By Pablo A. Tariman
Contributor

WHEN the INQUIRER visited Maestra Mercedes Matias Santiago early this month, we knew her end was near. But she had the lucidity to tell her maid, Mary, to go find a bottle of beer for me. I whispered to her ear, "Maestra, I can't take beer before lunch time. I might burst into an aria from Donizetti's Lucia (di Lammermoor)." To my surprise, the Maestra smiled and held my hand tightly.

That was my last meeting with Maestra Santiago before she passed away last Friday afternoon at the age of 93.

A few days earlier, she was seen listening to the Intermezzo from Cavalleria Rusticana. She was seen sobbing.

Now, the country's first and foremost interpreter of Lucia di Lammermoor is gone, and with it an era of great Filipino singers that started with Isang Tapales, who debuted as Madama Butterfly in Italy in 1924, then Jovita Fuentes who debuted in the same role in 1925, and Mercedes Matias Santiago, who sang Gilda (Rigoletto) in 1929 also in Italy.

As Lucia, which she performed at least 32 times, Maestra Santiago was incomparable.

The Manila Times reported in 1948 on her 20th performance of Lucia: "With her performance of Donizetti's Lucia di Lammermoor at the UST last night, Mercedes Matias Santiago established herself as the country's most appealing Lucia and gave opera here another boast (ing)."

The Manila Chronicle reported: "As in other cities abroad where the presentation of higher types of music is part of community life, the cosmopolitan population of Manila jammed the UST Gym to listen, look and applaud Mercedes Matias Santiago as the country's one and only Lucia di Lammermoor. The audience headed by President Manuel A. Roxas gave Santiago thunderous ovations that implied their approval."

Wrote veteran journalist Armando Malay (who also passed away this year) of that performance: "For a few minutes last Monday evening, I became a stage door Johnnie when I was brought to Mercedes Matias Santiago's dressing room in the UST Gym.

"The famed coloratura was making herself up for the Mad Scene, dubbing her white gown with mercurochrome to stimulate blood stains. I only had time to shake her hand and tell her that she was doing wonderfully. The crowd that trooped to see Mrs. Santiago's rendition of the ill-fated Lucy of Lammermoor gave her a tremendous ovation that proved that classic opera has a place in the hearts of Filipinos and that they know a magnificent performance when they see one. Mrs. Santiago was a woman inspired that Sunday evening."

Distinguished

Among Santiago's distinguished Edgardos in Lucia was tenor Octavio Cruz (I was with his son Rodolfo when I last visited the Maestra), who will be given an elaborate concert tribute at the Pasig Museum on July 27 on his 100th birthday anniversary.

Santiago's last Lucias were in the late '50s. She taught music at the UP College of Music in the 1930s. After the war, she taught at the UST Conservatory and other private schools.

Born on March 4, 1910, the Maestra was one of two daughters of Juan Matias of Ligao, Albay, and Rosario Regalado of Cavite City. They lived at a time when Spanish zarzuelas and Italian operas were the No. 1 entertainment.

Apart from Lucia di Lammermoor, Santiago also distinguished herself in other operas such The Barber of Seville (Rosina), Rigoletto (Gilda) and La Traviata (Violeta), among others.

A music teacher for 70 years, the Maestra has no citations from the country's leading cultural institutions but was honored in the early '90s by the UP College of Music and by the Manila Concert Society headed by Doming Yap.

"I think the bias (against) performers in the selection of National Artists for Music is very obvious in this country," said tenor Ramon Acoymo, who is shocked that the last of the country's great divas have not been given the proper honors.

The remains of Maestra Santiago will be cremated today.

MAESTRA (right) with President Manuel Roxas and First Lady Trinidad Roxas

THE MAESTRA'S recital at the UP Villamor Hall, now the Supreme Court Building, with the famous violin virtuoso Ernesto Vallejo (left), pianist Prof. Julio Esteban Anguita (right) and French harpist Elsa O' Farrell

MAESTRA Santiago, still beautiful and vibrant in her 90s

That old Harry Potter magic

From page D1

REVIEW

er—perhaps even Rowling could not have thought this stuff up.

But "Order" has finally arrived, and Harry Potter—bespectacled young wizard with friends Ron and Hermione in tow—returns. So the Ten-Galleon Question: Does the ballyhooed fifth novel live up to the hype? Yes and no.

Clocking in at 870 pages, "Order" is a Hagrid-sized serving of Rowling's beguiling imagination, the thickest Harry Potter tome yet. And in this serving, she's made some changes. Usually, any Harry Potter book begins in Privet Drive, with the annoying Dursleys—Harry's only muggle relatives—and a ponderous explanation of all things magical for readers unfamiliar with Rowling's setting. "Order" does begin in Privet Drive—but everything else is different.

Eschewing the usual introductions, Rowling throws the reader head first into this Floo Powder adventure, as the first few chapters already feature the return of three old characters, the arrival of several new ones and—gasp—Dementors loose in our world.

Hurtling along

In fact, "Order" just keeps hurtling along for a good several hundred pages, thrusting Harry, now in his fifth year, older and definitely different, into more misery than most readers will think possible. In a surprisingly affective display, Rowling shows how growing up—and even perhaps growing apart—happens even to magical people. Harry's return to the Hogwarts School of Wizardry and Witchcraft actually goes from bad to worse. Not only are his friends both prefects, but now both he and headmaster Albus Dumbledore are accused of lying because no one wants to believe He-Who-Must-Not-Be-Named (okay, Lord Voldemort) has returned. And as if Harry doesn't have enough to worry about, the Hogwarts fifth years must face their greatest academic challenge yet—the make-or-break Ordinary Wizarding Level tests (OWLs). Think of them as NSATs for warlocks.

So while there is conspicuously more studying in "Order," there is also much more intrigue. There is a conspiracy in the Ministry of Magic that not only wants to discredit Dumbledore but also wants to have Harry expelled from Hogwarts. Meanwhile, Harry seems to have gone all James Dean on us and become a rebel, shouting at teachers and even getting one detention after another. Oh, and did we mention that he begins an unlikely romance with a returning character? Readers, start guessing.

Rowling's strength as a writer has always been her capacity for intriguing the reader with her ideas. Indeed, the Potter series hooks readers with its premises, daring people to imagine these things. In "Order," she calls on centaurs, invisible horse-like creatures, as well as two house-elves, one familiar (can you say Dobby) and one truly wretched and frightening. And if the Death-Eaters have been working for Voldemort all this time, then welcome the good guys of the Order of the Phoenix.

Duality has always been a key idea in the Hogwarts books, as Rowling likes juxtaposing Harry's good side with Voldemort's evil one, highlighting the bond between them. Much more is revealed in this book about that, and there's a fair bit of Quidditch trouble, too—four words: Ron as Gryffindor keeper. Where's Oliver Wood when you need him?

Harry's future

After merely hinting at and providing little pieces to the puzzle of Harry's destiny, Rowling finally opens up her own Chamber of Secrets and tells us what's what regarding Harry's future, throwing a good old prophecy into the mix. In fact, "Order" is all about Harry. Unlike the earlier books, where the action would occasionally turn to some other character or setting, Harry is present in every single scene in his book. All the others characters, from old favorites like Neville Longbottom to new ones like the aptly named Professor Umbridge, are seemingly wrapped in a Cloak of Semi-Invisibility. This book is all Harry Potter, all the time.

The book begins in amazingly catchy fashion and proceeds to ride a Cleansweep broomstick all the way, until about one-third the way through. Even as we enjoy the newfound defiance and flaws within the rapidly maturing Harry, readers will feel like someone threw an "Impedimenta" spell at them as the novel slows down and stays somewhat sluggish, until what feels like a hastily tied-up ending. The simple fact is, every single Potter book has been steadily increasing in girth from the first book's 340 pages to "The Goblet of Fire's" 730 pages. But this does not need to be so. "Order" often feels figurative bulky and some passages do go on, not unlike the catacombs leading to the Chamber.

There are two things that Rowling does not excel at, and both are clear here in "Order": brevity and ending. All the Potter books, save perhaps for "Harry Potter and the Prisoner of Azkaban," the third and, in my mind, the best of the series, bear the burden of awkward, anticlimactic endings. And "Order" may have the most unimpressive ending of the series. Yes, there is a lot to read here, but it simply doesn't come together in a snappy enough fashion. Case in point: one key character talks to Harry about the prophecy for 24 whole pages, a conversation taking up an entire chapter.

Fear of the new

Beyond the ending, "Order" also seems to suffer from a fear of the new. Ironically, this book attempts to change so much of the Hogwarts mythos, but then suddenly seems to put it back, afraid of changing too much. There is death and romance, but not as dramatic or as important as readers will want. Rowling, in other words, plays immensely safe, content to please readers with an engaging, enjoyable book and reserve the real juicy stuff in books six and seven. Rowling clearly has plans. The final chapter is called "The Second War Begins," but it doesn't seem to happen in that chapter.

That is not to say there is nothing new in "Order." Quite the contrary, as Rowling does enough so that readers can be assured they probably won't look at Harry Potter's world quite the same again. "Order" is better than "Goblet of Fire," but it still doesn't have the energy of the superior first three books.

Yet hardcore Potter fans will often overlook these flaws and speedily board the Hogwarts Express as they have been waiting long enough. The fact that this book is not vaporware and has actually arrived at last is cause for celebration. Much will be said about the relative merits of Rowling's prose and the significance of Harry Potter in the literary scheme of things. More ink will be spilled on how long it'll take Rowling to finish the next book.

But at its core, Harry Potter is the book that has the world's children looking away from their cell phones and burying their noses into books again. The Harry Potter books aren't perfect, but they're irresistible. Enjoyable though uneven, J.K. Rowling's "Order of the Phoenix" brings more wizard's chess pieces into play than ever before, and the fact that kids everywhere are reading it heartily is not only fun, but important. Despite its warts, this book's very existence is clearly magic enough.

Available in hardcover at National Bookstore and PowerBooks.

Jazz up your notebook covers

BIC Conté coloring materials are a line of ultra resistant and durable coloring pencils, watercolor pencils and washable felt pens that don't leave stains on your clothes or skin.

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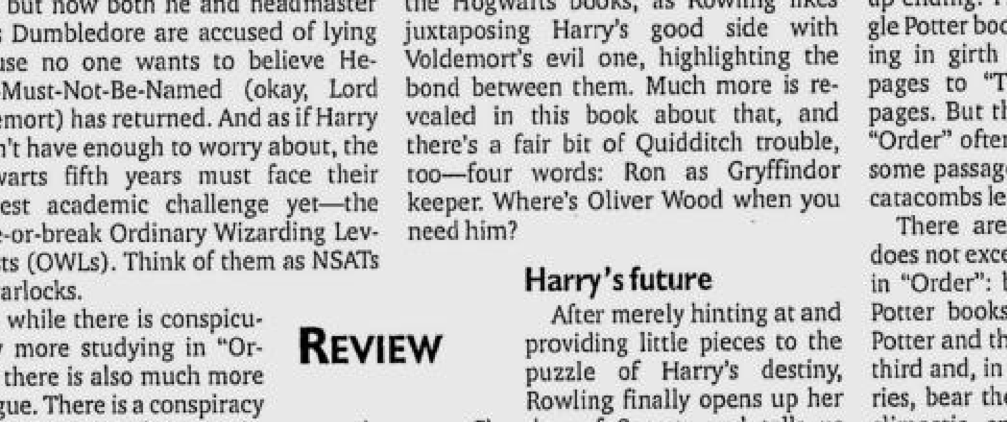
What you need: Smooth construction paper of any color large enough to fit the cover of your notebook, stencils (or cut-outs of different shapes and objects), more construction paper of various colors, Bic Conté coloring materials, plastic cover, scissors, Bic Mechanical Pencil to trace the designs and Bic Glue Stick.

How to make it: Cut the piece of construction paper for the background of your cover and attach it to the front of your notebook with Bic Glue Stick. Pick a stencil for the front of the notebook. Trace the stencil onto the different colors of construction paper with the Bic Mechanical Pencil. Cut them out and arrange them on your notebook in whatever design you want. Attach with double stick tape. Use Bic Conté coloring materials to highlight details of the stencils and to label your notebook with your name and subject. Finally, cover the whole front of the notebook with the plastic cover.

You can use this same idea to cover the back of your notebook, too!

Bic Conté coloring materials are available at National Book Store.

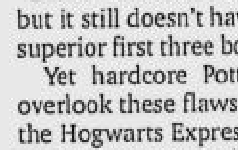


Writing a marketing letter that works

SHEAFFER, the top-of-the-line pen favored by career-driven individuals, shares a couple of pointers on how to compose a marketing letter that speaks to your specific target market and helps you close that all-important deal:

- Establish rapport by using marketing buzzwords—the trade's magic words. These are "personal" words that convey emotional meaning. It could be the person's name. So do away with generic salutations. It could also be the name of the business. Use personal pronouns, like you and yours. Make your details clear and concise. It should answer key consumer questions—the 5Ws and one H: what, who, why, where, when and how.
- Promote with words. Most people buy with their emotions. Listen and look out for words and phrases that would make your prospective clients react and act. Use phrases like "You can't lose," "We need you," "Say 'yes' to."

Sheaffer writing instruments are available at selected National Book Store branches and SM Department Stores.



EDUCATION REVOLUTION

Manifesto calls for active support of public education

By Butch Hernandez
Contributor

SEN. Tessie Aquino Oreta, DepEd Undersecretary Ramon Bacani and Prof. Victor Andres Manhit await their turn at signing the Education Revolution Manifesto.

A MULTISECTORAL gathering spearheaded by De La Salle University's Caucus on Poverty Reduction, the Foundation for Worldwide People Power and the Active Youth Alliance has called for active support of public education through the Education Revolution Manifesto, which they signed in simple ceremonies at the Department of Education's Bulwagan ng Karunungan.

Signing the manifesto were Education Undersecretary Ramon Bacani, Sen. Tessie Aquino Oreta, chair, Senate education committee; Dr. Teresita Arriola, president, Philippine Elementary School Principals Association (Pespa); Dr. Loureli Siy, president, Philippine Association of Secondary School Administrators (Passa); Dr. Carolina Porio, executive director, Fund for Assistance to Private Education (Fape); Dr. Mariano Piamonte, executive director, Catholic Educational Association of the Philippines (Ceap); Dr. Erlinda Pefianco, director, Seameo-Innotech; Sr. Ma. Jacinta de Belen, RVM, regional superior for Luzon; Sr. Nora Joson, St. Mary's Academy, Sta. Ana; Orly Oxales, director, Technical Services, DepEd; Don Juan Bagatsing, convenor, Active Youth Alliance (AYA); Wilford Wong, convenor, Student Advocacy for Government Accountability (Saga); student leaders from Manuel L. Quezon University, Pamantasan ng Lungsod ng Maynila, DLSU, Philippine Normal University, and Adamson University; Lucrecio Delgado Jr., director, Caucus on Poverty Reduction (CPR); Prof. Victor Andres Manhit of the Task Force Education Revolution, and president, READ Foundation; and this writer.

DON Juan Bagatsing of the Active Youth Alliance reads the Education Revolution Manifesto together with other student leaders.

The Education Revolution Manifesto says, in part: "This school year, 17.2 million pupils and students—and their families—will continue to hope that the education they will get from our public schools can make them strong enough to eventually break the crippling bonds of poverty.

"This is public education's most daunting challenge, and one it cannot face alone.

"Our public elementary and secondary school teachers have been grappling with formidable odds for decades as they perform their vital task of molding responsible, responsive and productive Filipinos.

"Our public schools can do so much more, but we must help them.

"An Education Revolution is in the air, and our teachers are its wings."

SR. Jackie de Belen and Dr. Mariano Piamonte of the Catholic Educators Association of the Philippines; and Dr. Leticia Peñano Ho, dean of the UP College of Education, who brings her college closer to the public schools through the Education Revolution.

Cross-stitch works on exhibit

DMC, makers of fine embroidery thread, held an exhibit of the winning entries of its "Masterpiece in Cross-Stitch" contest at the SM Megamall. New and original designs developed by the DMC Design Studio for the Asian market were also featured.

The two categories of the contest—People and Open—required participants to submit their very own cross-stitch replicas of personally chosen photos. Photos went through the Stitch-a-Photo scanning service that makes cross-stitching patterns. Rita Remo and lena Mayo were judged as grand prize winners. They won P40,000.

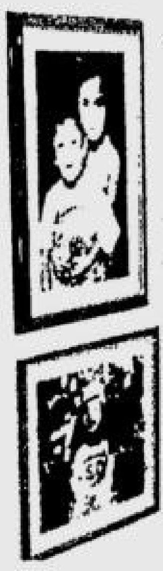
DMC-Asia marketing manager Ella Robbins and British philanthropist Jennifer Wallum served as judges.

CONTEST winners show off their works.

Stitch-a-Photo kits are available at your favorite cross-stitch shops nationwide. Just buy the pack and send the order form and your picture to Focus Global Inc. by courier. Upon receipt, a graphic artist will scan your picture to create an easy-to-use cross-stitch pattern, complete with listing and number of threads you need.

Stitch-a-Photo creates a painting effect through careful selection of colors that work subtly together. Different colors of threads stitched next to each other give this special effect, which only becomes apparent when all stitching has been completed. Once you have finished your piece and step back to view it as a whole, you can get a real picture of your masterpiece.

Focus Global Inc. exclusively distributes DMC Threads. Visit the DMC Creative World Store at SM Megamall or call 630-9978.


SOME winning creations

PRINCIPALS and master teachers prepare for a mentoring exercise.

Guimaras mentors enlist in Education Revolution

By Stella "Chinit" Rufino
Contributor

AS we traveled by pump boat to Guimaras from Iloilo, I wondered at our temerity and daring, facilitators for the Mentoring the Mentors Program, in going to the island known for its sweet mango. The team included Celia Adriano and Evelyn Mejillano of the University of the Philippines' College of Education and Lirio Mapa, vice president of the Center for Excellence.

I looked at the faces of the principals and master-teachers attending the program as they listened to their dynamic superintendent, Ida Endonila.

We were strangers gathered together, giving five full days to a still not understood program, prompting them to ask, "What's Mentoring the Mentors all about?"

We wanted to share the "magic" we discovered in our work (at UP and at Assumption), to introduce effective teaching methodologies and the idea of education for social transformation.

Dr. Jose V. Abueva, in his keynote speech on "The Role of Education in Nation Building," emphasized the role of teachers in transforming the young to become productive and good citizens of a country still struggling in its nationhood.

The need for a *kambio sa pananaw* from *akin* to *atin* mentality focused education on social transformation—going beyond personal agendas to work for the greater common good. During the week, the phrase "Atin ito" slowly opened up hearts and minds.

Lea Jurilla, speaking on behalf of the "graduates," said "... moral recovery programs... left the scene without leaving any imprints... we were invited to a crusade... that only served a few with special interests... but as the sessions progressed, the mantle of skepticism was [removed]... [and we saw] the sad reality... that we need to have a Kambio-Pananaw... We believe that drastic change must start with school leaders and managers... We strongly and proudly enlist ourselves as workers behind this Education Revolution as partner-mentors..."

> Social transformation
> means going beyond
> personal agendas
> to work
> for the greater
> common good

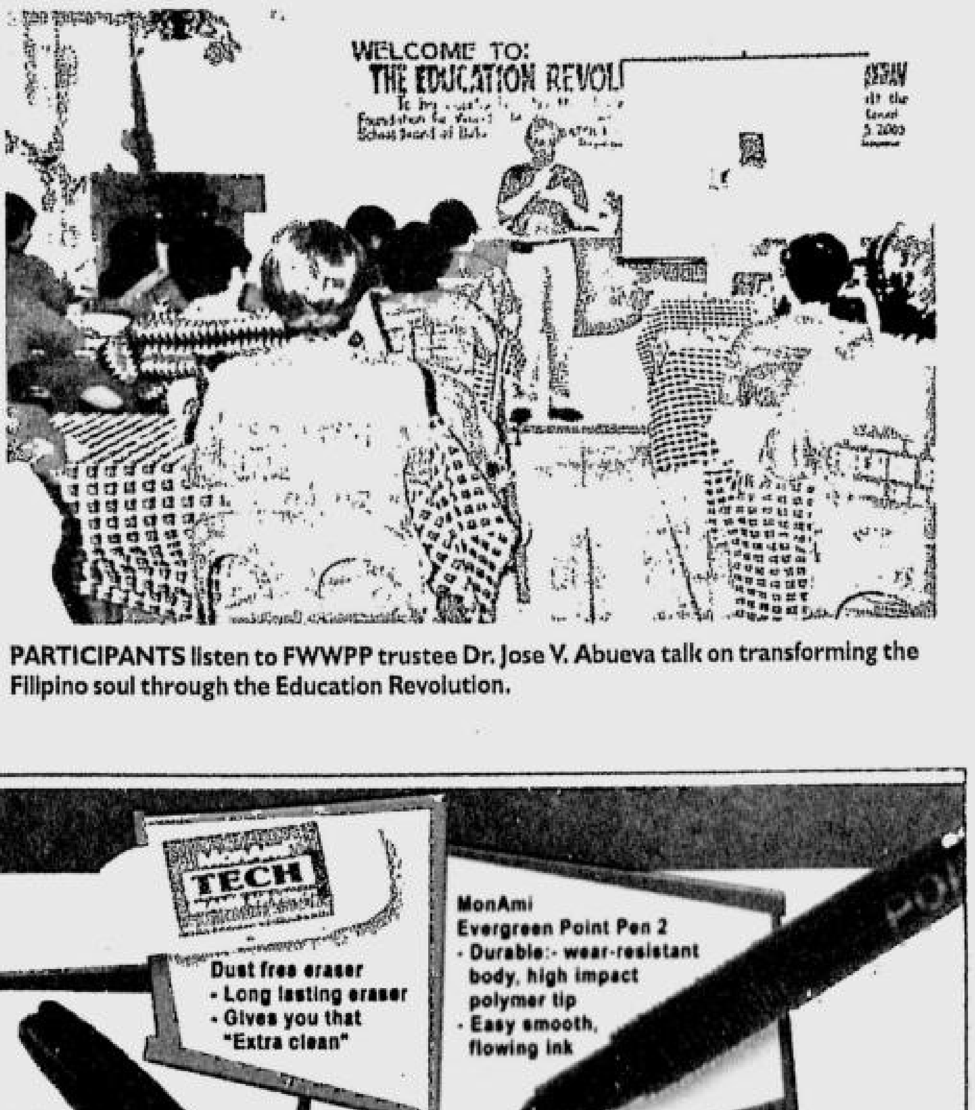
In just five days, strangers became friends, bound in heart and mind, sharing a common goal—the development in the young of the *atin* mentality. Young people would be encouraged to learn and know how to serve the greater common good, to be productive participants in nation building.

Some saw how building relationships and the art of loving could help them build their communities while others appreciated learning new methodologies in Critical Thinking and Learner-Centered Teaching, as well as saw an opportunity to review their System Design of Instruction.

We discovered aspects of our persons that inspired, enjoyed, reached out and shared.

Motivated to truly make a difference, we sang our graduation dong taking to heart the lyrics, understanding we have a part in making a better world, knowing we can make a difference if we try. Side by side we can learn to work together... what the future brings is up to you and me."

Mentoring the Mentors program director Chinit Rufino was in Guimaras recently for mentoring sessions with public school teachers in the Division of Iloilo City. She is also co-executive director of the Marie Eugenie Foundation of Assumption College.



PARTICIPANTS listen to FWWPP trustee Dr. Jose V. Abueva talk on transforming the Filipino soul through the Education Revolution.

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Coming to terms with the US colonial experience

By Cora Llamas
Contributor

A LOVE-HATE relationship with an intensity and influence that has rippled for 50 years until now.

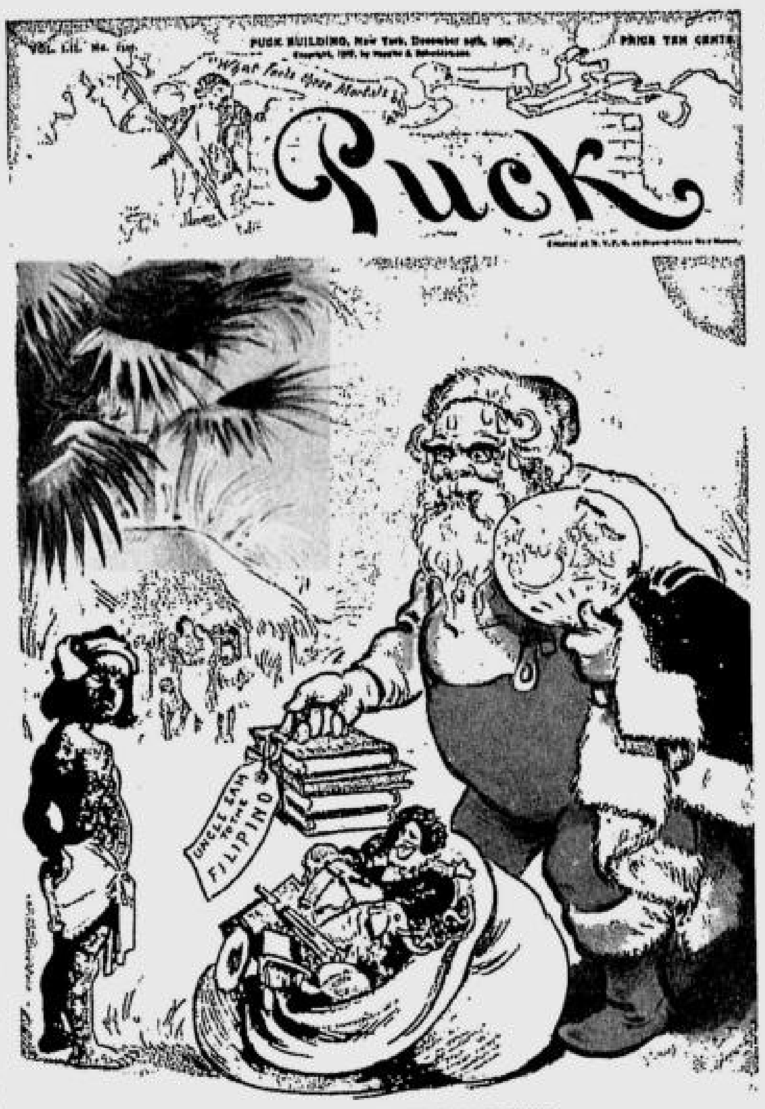
That's how Dr. Nicanor G. Tiongson, professor, author, theater historian and critic, man of letters, and currently dean of the University of the Philippines College of Mass Communications, describes the Filipino-American colonial experience.

He says the "hate" part can be traced easily enough to the Unites States' subversion of the Aguinaldo proclamation of independence and the Malolos constitution in order to establish a strategic base that's close to China.

The "love" part is evident in the way the Filipino has embraced the beneficial parts of that colonization such as culture and education.

"We have to use what we can out of that experience for our own self-definition," Tiongson points out, then asks rhetorically: "America has been here for a hundred years, but what [can we] do with what they brought to the country? Was everything they brought negative? There was sanitation and education for different levels, which Spain had denied to the Filipinos for centuries.

"We do know about the expansionism and fight it when we have to, but we cannot stay with the anger all our life. We have to go beyond it."


PUCK
CHRISTMAS IN OUR NEW POSSESSIONS.

PUCK magazine cover at the turn of the century shows the American invader as a Santa Claus bringing education to "uneducated" Filipinos.

Provocative propaganda

"Going beyond it" was Tiongson's advice to a group of young second-generation Filipino-American students in the US, shocked and angered into tears at the sight of turn-of-the-century US newspapers vividly illustrating Filipinos as monkeys, snakes, or dirty African babies needing to be bathed by the benevolent Yankee in the rivers of civilization. Though decades old, the pictures still pack an emotional wallop until now.

Those illustrations and other art forms, from visuals to ballet—equally critical and thought-provoking, some less visceral than others, but all designed to open eyes—will be on exhibit for a month starting July 6 at the Cultural Center of the Philippines.

Titled "Sangandaan 2003," the cultural commemoration of arts and media in Fil-Am relations from 1899-2003 will "focus on the past century and look at how arts and media were used both for colonization and decolonization."

Tiongson sums up: "It's coming to terms with what has happened."

The historian provides the context of the potentially inflammatory newspaper publications: "There was a lot of American reaction against expansionism in the Philippines because of the US' own constitution and their own revolutionary history. The imperialist league had to propagandize and argue that it was good for the Filipinos to be colonized, Christianized, and prepared for independence. That was why the newspapers had to portray us as a backward race.

"But the anti-imperialist league, which included Mark Twain and William Jennings Bryan, argued that the Philippines had already been Christianized for 300 years. Twain in particular argued that a race of savages could not have produced a Rizal or a 'Noli Me Tangere.'"

Tiongson also cautions that one should make a distinction: "You should not get mad at the American people [but separate] them from the American government which is run by politics and big business. Some imperialists sincerely believed in the white man's burden. The Thomasites cannot be blamed for evil intention; they had good intentions in educating the people. [One] cannot judge motives but only view the results."

Cultural influence

Prior to the cultural fest, a week-long conference at UP will discuss and analyze the historical experience and its repercussions.

Some of the panelists are Fil-Am professors flying in from universities like Berkeley and UCLA.

This particular focus was neglected during the Centennial celebration, which concentrated more on the three-century Spanish influence.

Tiongson points out that a conference like Sangandaan has been long overdue: "As a people, we've been colonized several times. That has caused a lot of damage. Education was a handmade tool for colonization to capture our minds. The US influence is still very, very strong. [So] what you do with it? *Magpapadala ka na lamang? Paano mo haharapin iyong ganoong klaseng* cultural influence *na napakalakas?*"

Sangandaan 2003 is a month-long cultural commemoration in exhibits and forums of the American episode

His proposed solution: "creative assimilation"—which means looking back at and understanding one's roots, connecting with traditions, studying and being exposed to foreign influences, retaining what is positive and discarding what is negative, and fusing that with the inherently Filipino to totally create something original and new.

He cites an example: "[Broadway producer] Cameron Mackintosh's influence can be seen in Ryan Cayabyab's 'Noli Me Tangere' and 'El Filibusterismo.' *Nakuha niya iyong* latest ways of staging in musical theater and connected that to the *zarzuela, Maganda ang paghiram noon. Sakay doon ang tao*, at the same time *hindi ka naiwan sa panahon*. You are also addressing the contemporary Filipino."

The two extremes he argues against are the copycat and the nativist.

The copycat "makes Elvis Presley and Barbra Streisand as his ideal and wants it to be taken as the real thing. *Maging totoo ka sa sarili mo*. Be exposed to Broadway but it becomes a problem kung *iisipin mo na iyon ang lehitimong kultura para sa iyo*.

"There's nothing wrong in seeing an appearance in the Broadway musical as the supreme achievement as long as you see it for what it is—that it is foreign theater and you want to be recognized as an achiever under their terms."

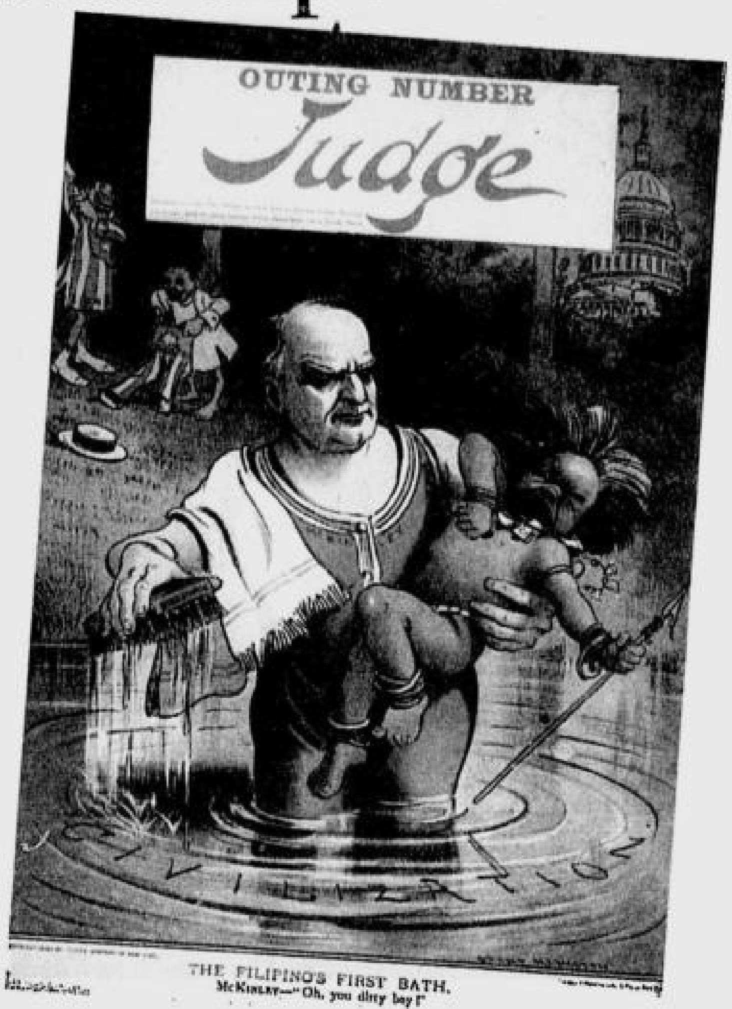
Neither is nativism the alternative because it "freezes culture at one point. But culture is alive and changing."

The exhibit

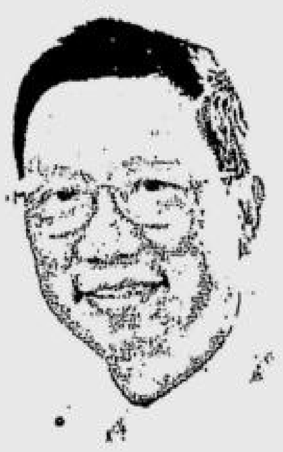
The "Sangandaan 2003" exhibit runs until July 31. A few of the multicultural highlights include:

"Yankee Doodles": Ten contemporary Filipino visual artists like Brenda Fajardo, Neil Manalo and Elmer Borlongan create riveting works that respond to the imperialist cartoons from 1898-1902.

"Behind the Camera Lens": Photographs explore social engineering in the Philippines from 1940-1946, showing architecture, tribal groups, environmental impact, and the evolution of the Filipino lifestyle.



ANOTHER American magazine cover showing McKinley bathing a grubby Filipino with the waters of civilization.



NICANOR Tiongson

"Pinoy Hollywood": An exhibit revolving around the reminiscences of 1950s movie stars, film producers, directors and other movie people like Eddie Romero, Amalia Fuentes, Eddie Mesa, who talk about the Hollywoodization of the Filipino film and how they responded individually to that influence.

"Tongue-in-a-mood mo rin": Tongue-in-a-Mood, a San Francisco-based Fil-Am group, will perform back-to-back with Jon Santos, Rex Navarette, Alan K, Tim Tayag and Candy Pangilinan in spoofs and stand-up impersonations.

"Oraciones": This Tanghalang Pilipino production has four Filipino playwrights—Rene Villanueva, Liza Magtoto, Rody Vera and Nick Pichay—interpreting Fil-Am relations through the years via an American colonial official, a Filipina suffragette, a Huk peasant, and a crewman in Francis Ford Coppola's "Apocalypse Now." Directed by Jose Estrella.

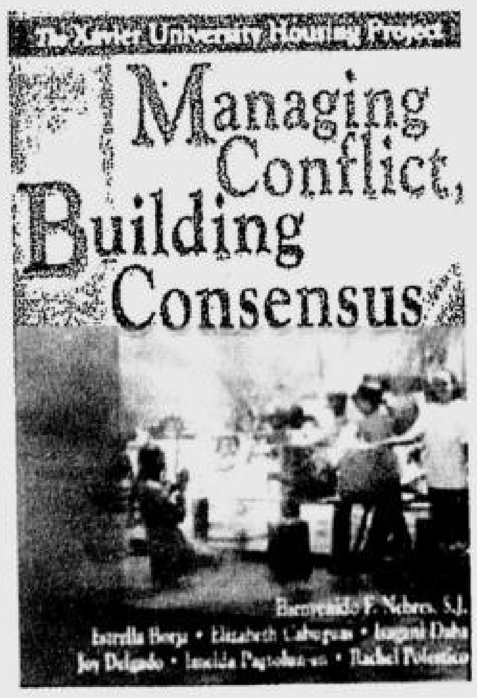
"The Romance of Magno Rubio": This critically acclaimed play focuses on a Filipino field hand in the US who dreams of a woman he has met only through letters. Produced by Ma-yi Theater Company, a leading Fil-Am theater organization based in New York City.

"Kung Hindi Man": Richard Reynoso, Bimbo Cerrudo, Pinky Marquez and others sing the *kundimans* as well as songs popularized during the American period.

"Balangiga Rocks": Concert with the best Fil and Fil-Am bands.

"Seven Manangs Wild": Philippine book launching of a collection of short stories and essays by Fil-Am writers in the US.

For more info about Sangandaan, call 832-1125 or 928-3188.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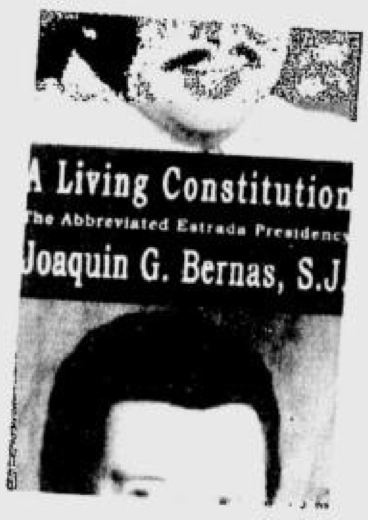

TO MARK its 31st year, the Ateneo de Manila University Press will hold a book sale starting today until June 28 in its book shop (Bellarmine Hall). Discounts of up to 30 percent will be offered. Call (02) 426-5984, 426-6001 ext. 4612/6.

Handbook on migrant journalism to be launched

THE OFW Journalism Consortium, a pilot network of media practitioners and migrant civil society advocates formed by the Institute on Church and Social Issues (ICSI), will release its first book, "Philippine Migration Journalism: A Practical Handbook," on June 27 at Social Development Complex conference hall of the Ateneo de Manila University.

The 210-page resource book is a compendium of essential information on the international migration of Filipinos, and the place of journalism in this inescapable social phenomenon.

The book, edited by veteran journalist and CyberDyaryo editor Paulynn Paredes Sicam, will give users—OFWs, media practitioners, and NGO advocates for migrants—background to understand international migration and package and share stories about it.

The Consortium will also hold an experts and media forum on "Overseas Filipinos as Part of the National Development Agenda."

Labor Sec. Patricia Sto. Tomas leads the speakers.

Oxfam Netherlands and the Friedrich Ebert Stiftung sponsor the book launch and forum.

Poet Cirilo Bautista launches latest book

CIRILO F. Bautista, the multi-awarded poet, will launch "Bullets and Roses: Translation of Amado V. Hernandez's Poems with Critical Introduction," at the Marilen Gaerlan Conservatory of De La Salle University, Taft Avenue, Manila, today at 1 p.m.

The book contains translations of 46 of Hernandez's poems and a 42-page introduction, "The Poetry of Bullets and Roses."

Bautista teaches poetry and creative writing at De La Salle University Manila. He has been included in the Palanca Hall of Fame.

The book will also be launched at Powerbooks, Arnaiz Street, Makati on June 28 at 4 p.m.

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LIFESTYLE Arts/Design

MANILA'S new living room on Roxas Boulevard finally provides Manila residents an open place to go to.

Encore, Mayor Atienza!

The Mayor should be congratulated for the renovation of Roxas Boulevard

SPACED OUT

Augusto F. Villalon

THE RELATIONS between heritage lovers and Manila Mayor Lito Atienza have been rocky so far.

But the learning curve continues to rise for those on either side of the Mehan Garden-Arroceros Forest Park debate.

When there is cause to disagree, we disagree. When there is an opportunity to join forces, we come together.

The Heritage Conservation Society

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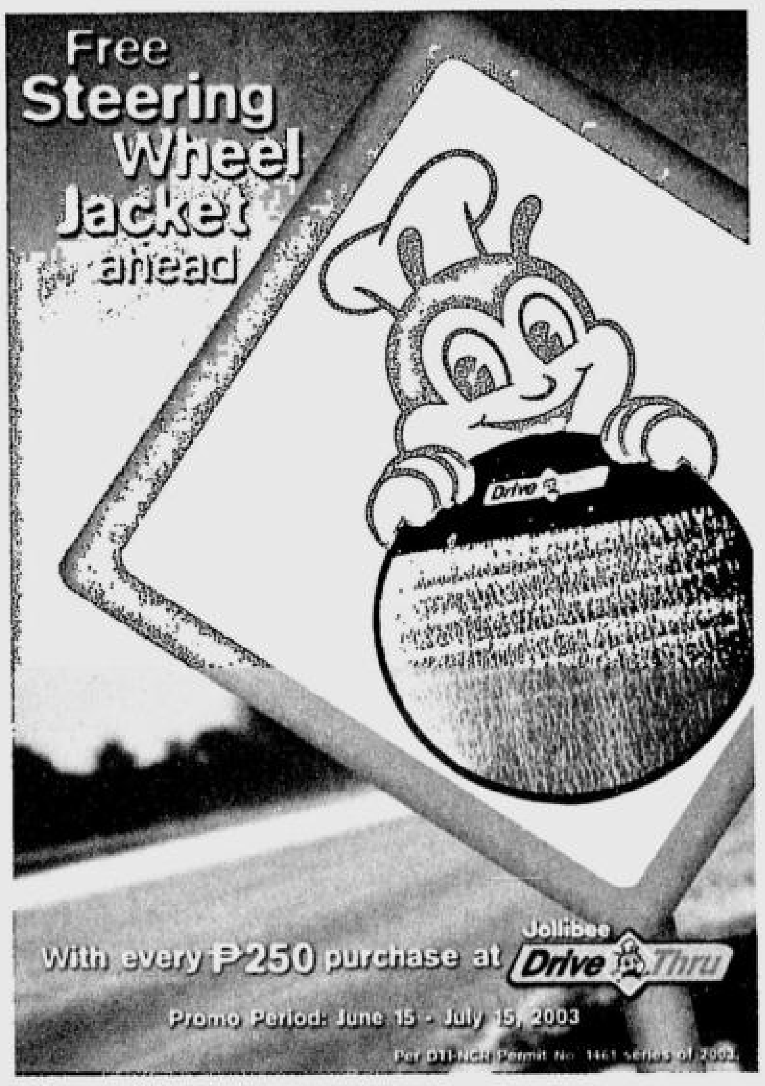
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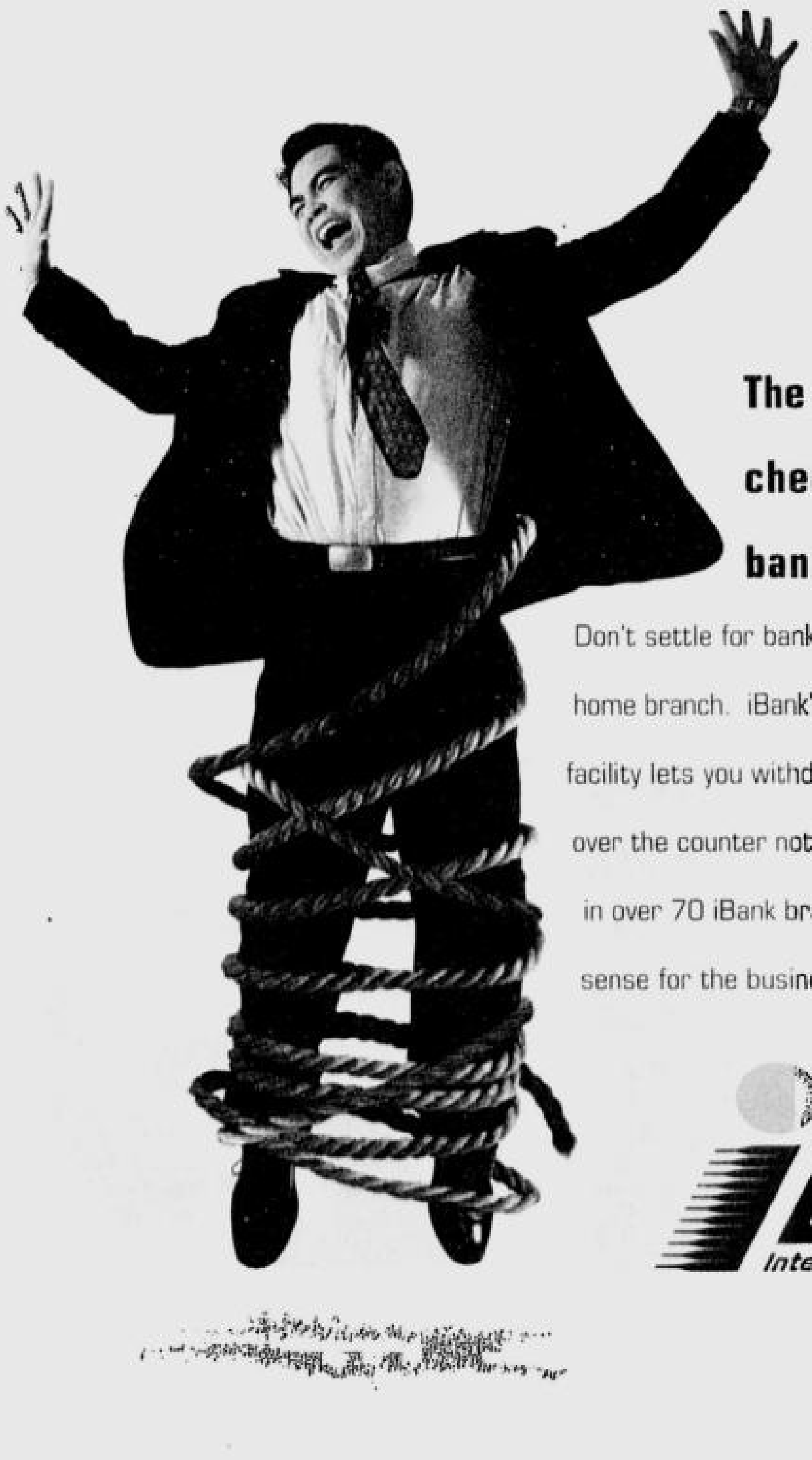

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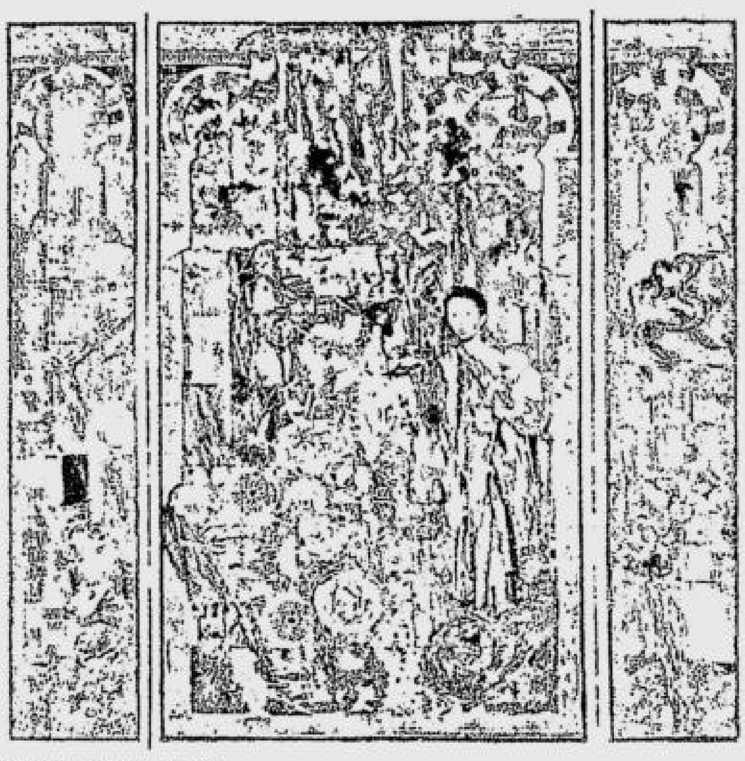
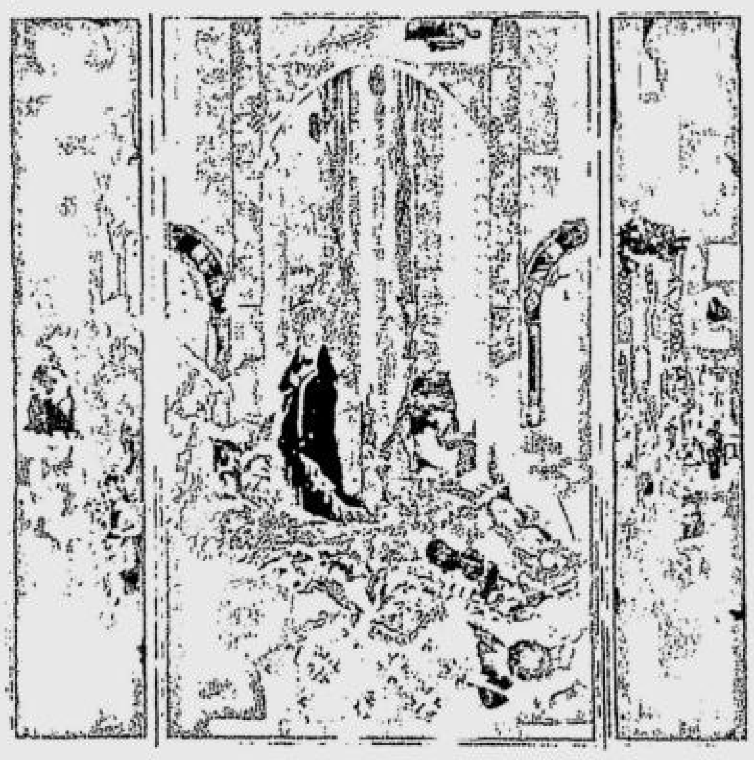
Art that does not tolerate boundaries


"JARDIN Botanico"


"CORDON de la Eternidad"

By Gino Dormiendo
Contributor

MARIO de Rivera, in his ongoing show at the Hiraya (until June 25), best exemplifies the art of the expatriate whose work does not tolerate boundaries. His work is where meaning simply does not stop at the frame.

His show is provocatively splendid, an iconographic intensification of the contemporary experience, filled with poetic responses to modern themes and issues.

Having been bypassed at the 2000 Philip Morris Art Awards, for his seminal work in mixed media, "Ghosts of Dragons and Emperors," for reasons known only to the jury, De Rivera, a product of the University of Santo Tomas, has written his own exegesis with a stunning collection he calls "Fragments of Incantation," which includes "Nuestra Eden Perdido," which received the Excellence Award at the 2003 Beppu Asia Contemporary Art Exhibition in Japan.

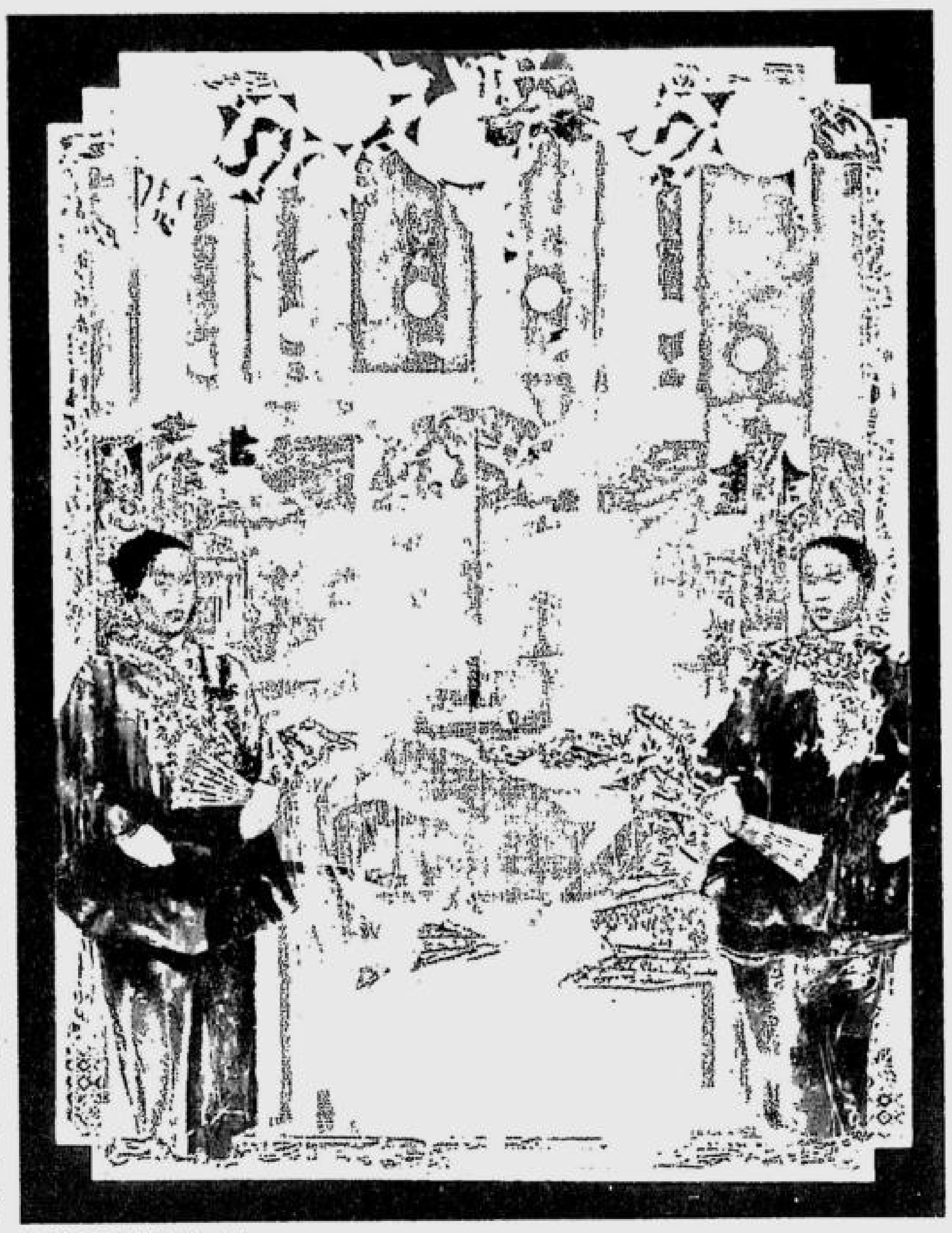
Though he has, at the moment, taken residence in a Manila suburb, De Rivera continues to shuttle between the Philippines and Australia, where his Filipina wife works. He has also traveled extensively (he stayed for seven years in China).

These foreign sojourns have helped shape a cultural memory grounded on loss and dispersal. Like the Jewish experience, his sojourn is one that discovers roots in the face of constant wanderings.

Visionary

De Rivera's work paints a visionary picture of his own coming of age. In "Perfect Age," a triptych, like most of the pieces assembled here, the artist brings together references to his life's milestones (he turned 50 recently), images of people, places and events, ranging from snapshots of his nine-year-old son to photo-transfers of bikers racing through an idyllic countryside, and his own dream of paradise going up in a cloud, or, more aptly, in a maze of memory.

In "Lagum," De Rivera goes back in time to the primeval forest of his childhood, lodged somewhere in the fastnesses of Cagayan Valley, inhabited by exotic-looking creatures, and constantly buffeted by the waves of history, a recurring image that symbolizes journey and renewal.


"THE EIGHTH Moon"

Bypassed by the Philip Morris Award but vindicated by Beppu Asia, Mario de Rivera shows his art is not for the shallow

With De Rivera's inimitable technique of combining collage, pastiche and illustration, adroitly enhanced by applications of modeling paste, the maze of imagery presses upon the eye and conjures an irresistibly redemptive effect.

Similar in spirit is "Jardin Botanico," where the artist expounds on the subject of women as nurturers of life, while around are flora abloom, an image that, though a bit too stretched for comfort, is redeemed by its admirable delicacy of spirit. Not to mention the sexually pregnant invocation, which suffuses De Rivera's art.

Another triptych, "The Eighth Moon," shows two women with sharply indigenous character but fully garbed in resplendent Chinese apparel and with domestic appurtenances. Framing the image is a finely detailed arch of Chinese character, while the moons above the women seem to signal the changing seasons—or evolving epochs—so delicately etched in the gradating shades of blue color.

Most powerful

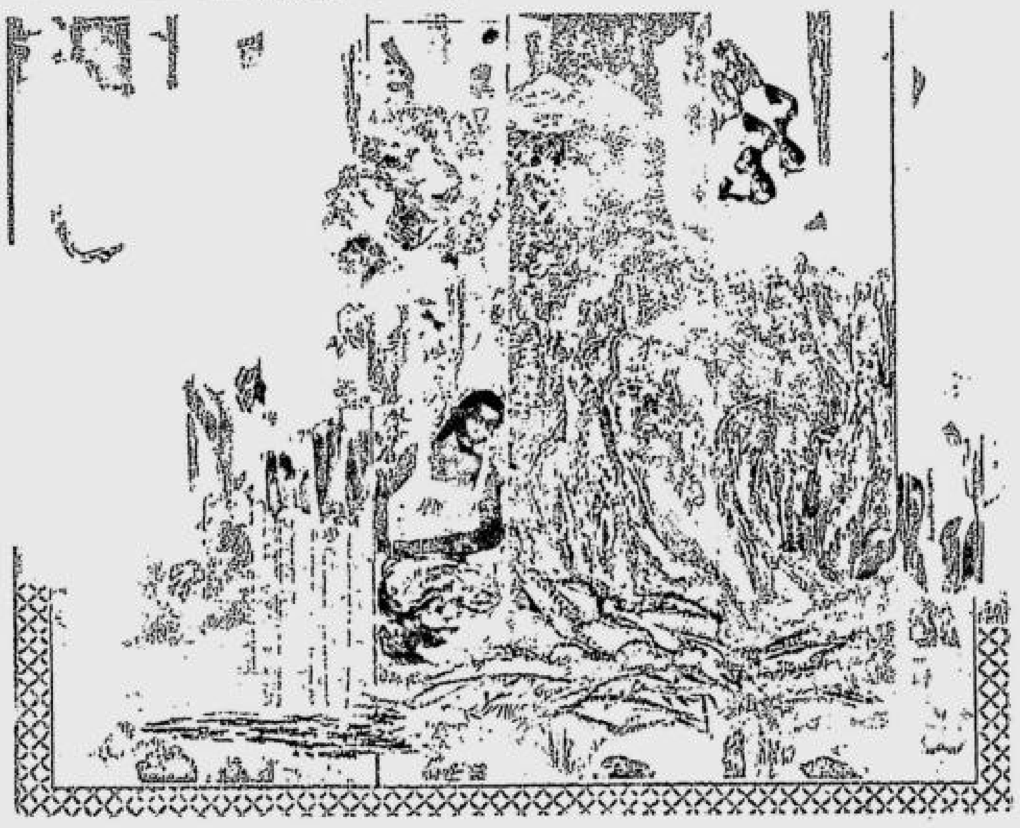
The most powerful imagery to this viewer is "Cordeon de la Eternidad," a three-paneled work where the iconography of women central to De Rivera's work is depicted in all their religious, mythical and historical contexts. Juxtaposed in the middle panel are portraits of women from the past and present—as saint, muse and all-suffering mother cradling her babe in the manner of the piety, the last culled from the embattled region of war-torn Muslim countries.

On both side panels are found more images of women culled from the works of masters, freely strewn like a hothouse of women conspiring.

Finally, there is the Beppu-winning piece, "Nuestra Eden Perdido" (Our Lost Eden), a larger-than-average triptych, with a pastoral scene that conjures all that is vital to De Rivera's art-making.

From the signature photo-transfer technique to the mutedly brilliant hues, the work is both an elegy and a celebration, a magisterial opus that reveals the artist's personal view of the Filipino and what has become of him, so brilliantly encapsulated in those iconographic symbols drawn from the forces of history, religion and the paradoxical power of art to leave the mind filled with a powerful sense of what is missing.

E-mail the author at gdormiendo@yahoo.com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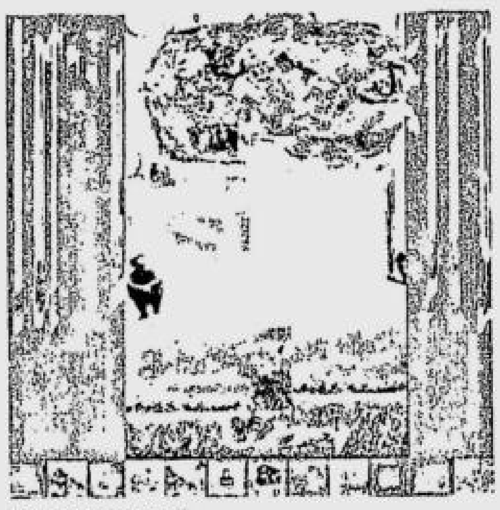

"PERFECT Age"

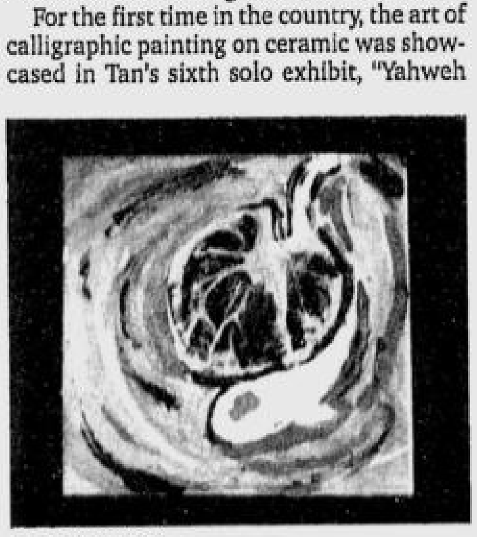
CALLIGRAPHIC ART

An old way of writing, a new way of painti

CALLIGRAPHY has a near-sacral value to the Chinese. A perfect stroke of the brush dipped in *muo* and applied on the rice paper could send an emperor into shivers of rapture.

Chinese-Filipino artist Sherwin Tan tries to uphold this millenniums-old art by blending it with painting, and preserve it in a more enduring medium: ceramic.

For the first time in the country, the art of calligraphic painting on ceramic was showcased in Tan's sixth solo exhibit, "Yahweh Tsur," held recently in Crucible Gallery at Artwalk, 4/L, SM Megamall A, Mandaluyong City.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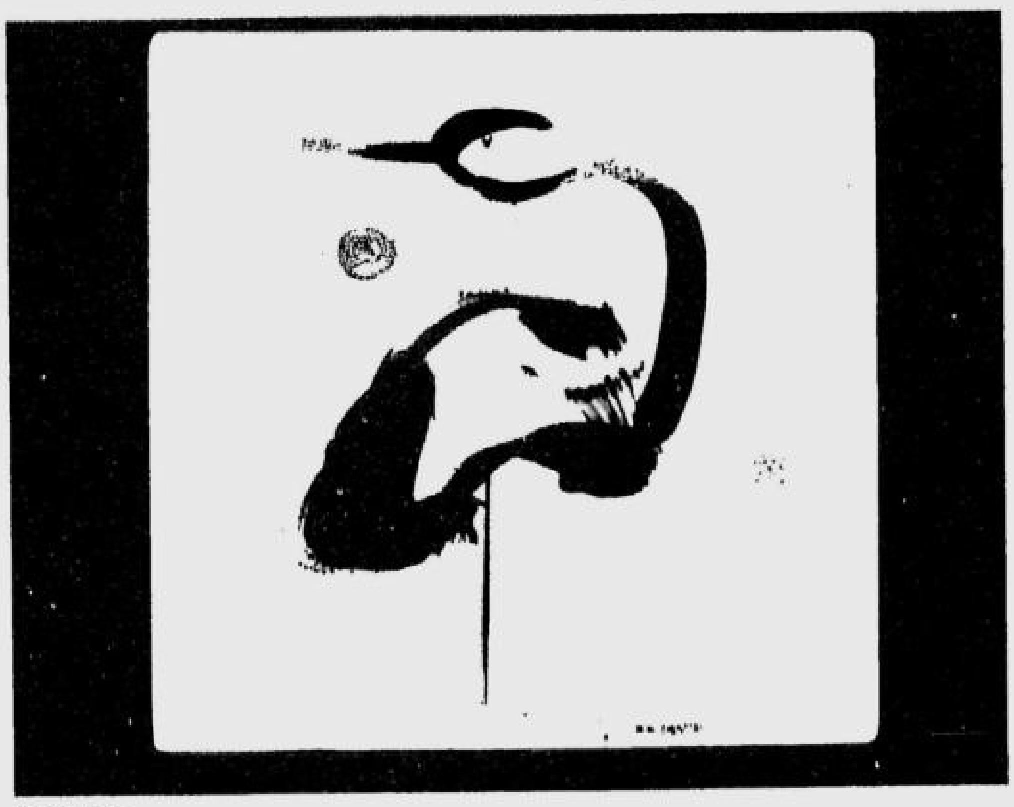
But more enchanting are the calligraphic paintings in black and white. One is rendered in acrylic on canvas, the rest in ceramic paint on tiles, with a red dot as focal point.

This dot, suggesting the sun, is the only chromatic color in the black-and-white pieces. Tan says he uses it to "give flavor to the monochrome."

Explaining why he uses this difficult medium instead of the traditional scroll, silk or rice paper, the artist has also revealed his technique and style.

"I want to be different," he says. "Even my bamboo I treat differently. The traditional Chinese is realistic. Mine is a modern bamboo, it is not so straight, its stem is thicker—because I want a stronger and more pliant plant."

Traditional motifs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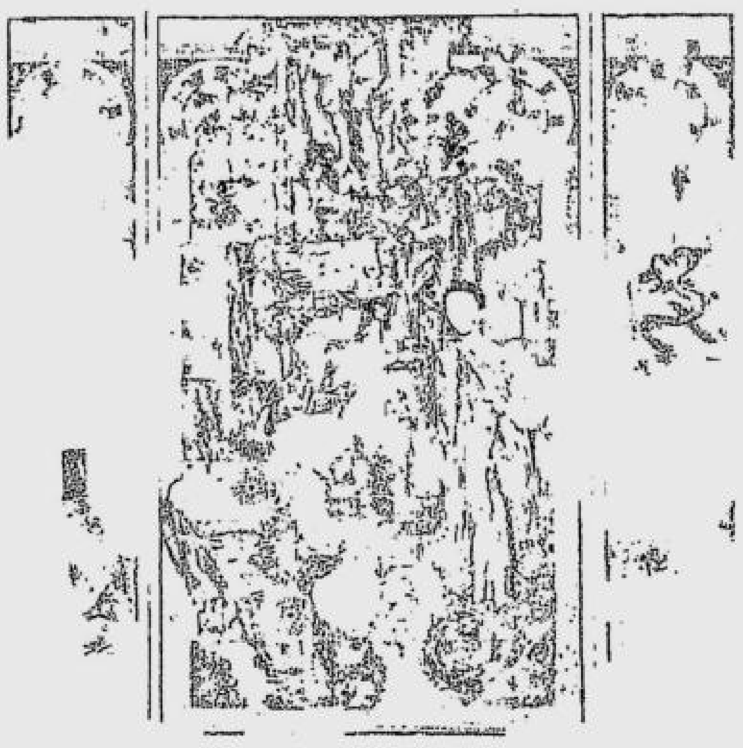

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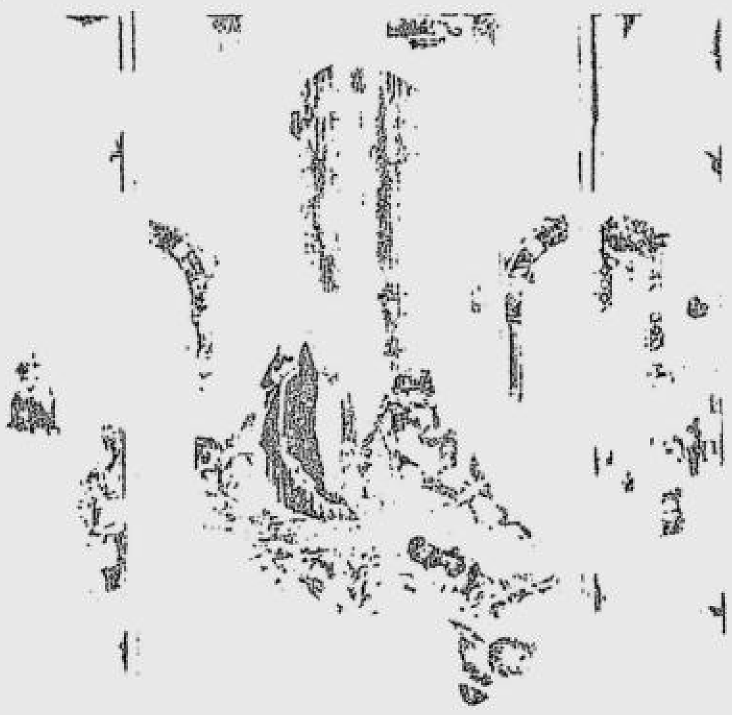

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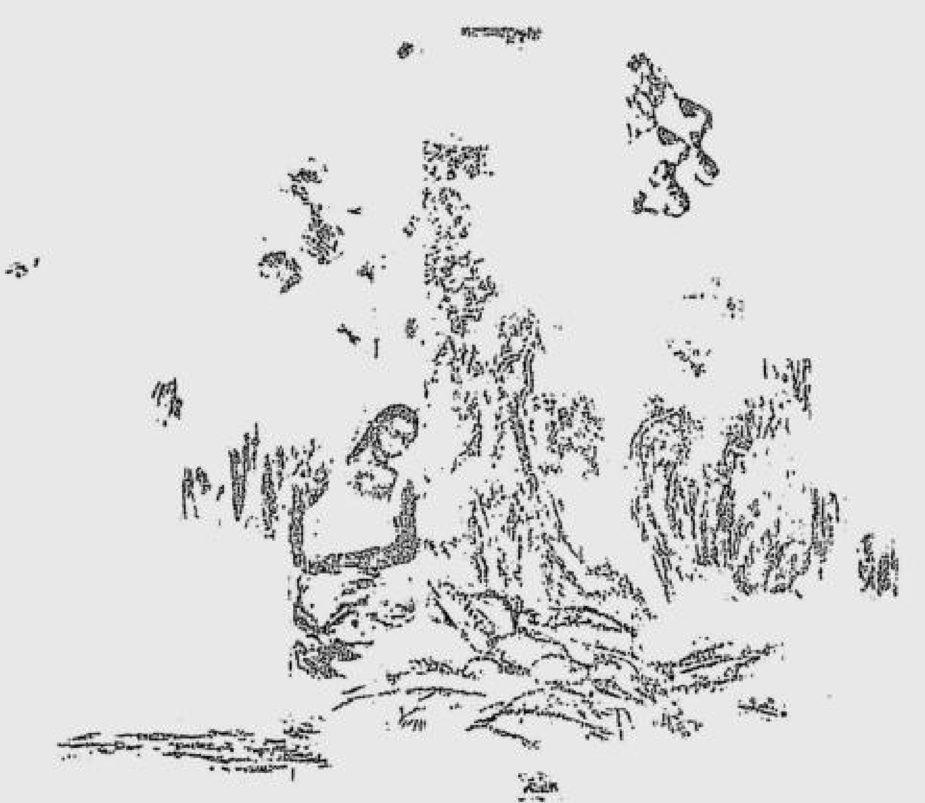

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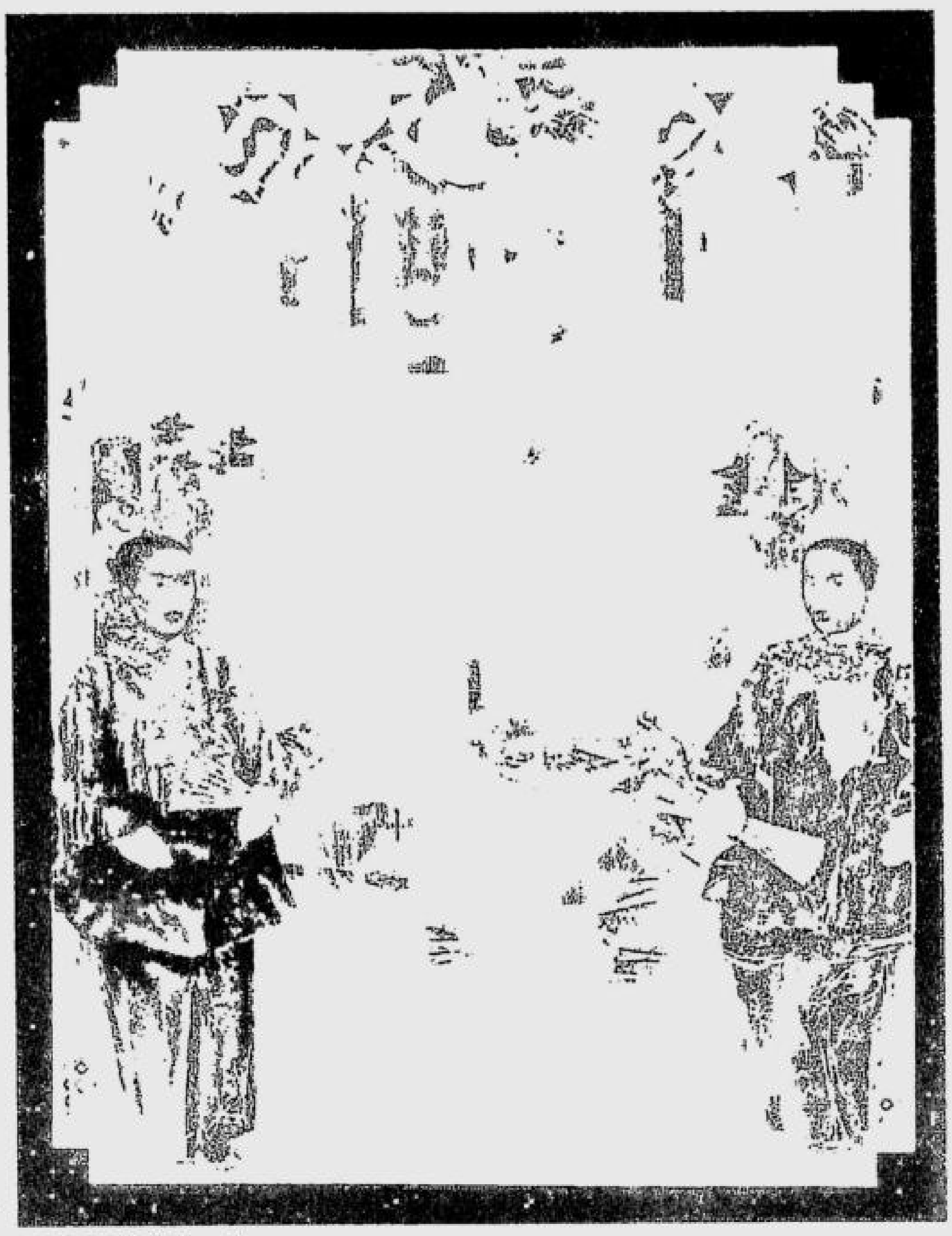

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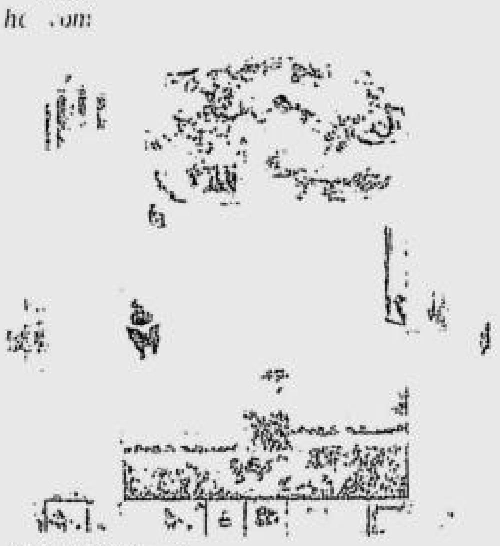

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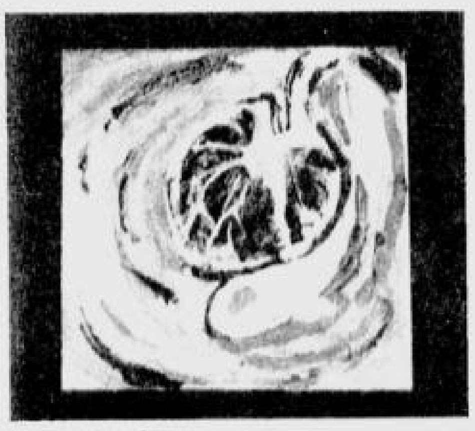

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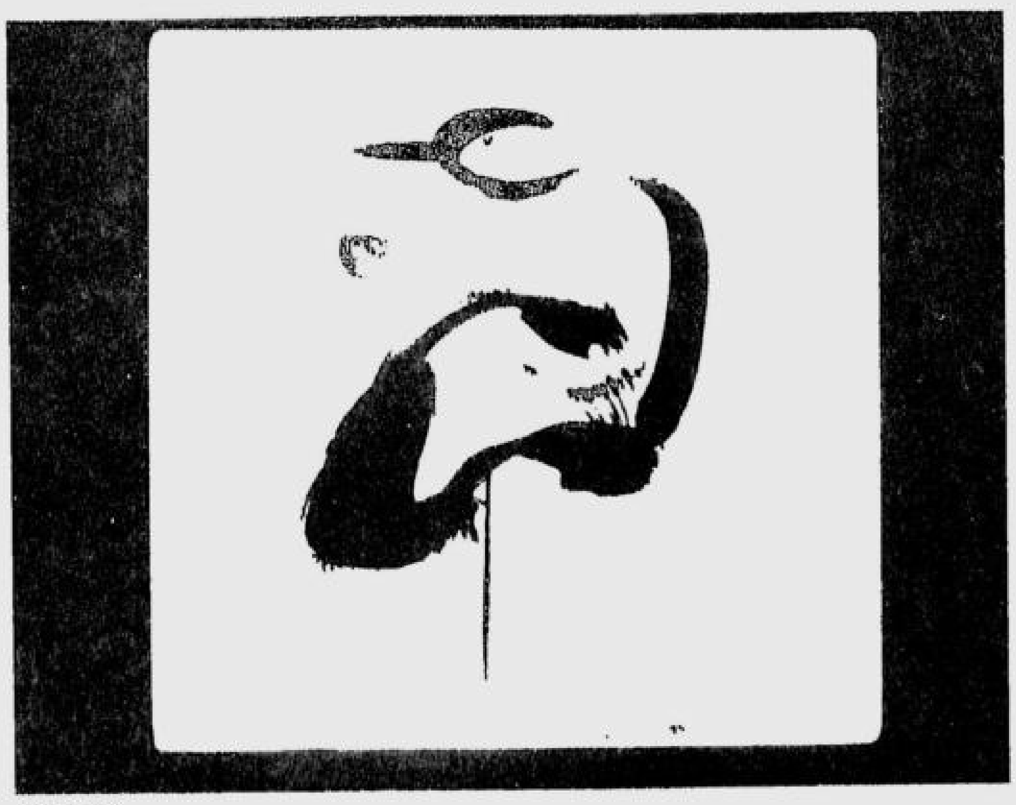

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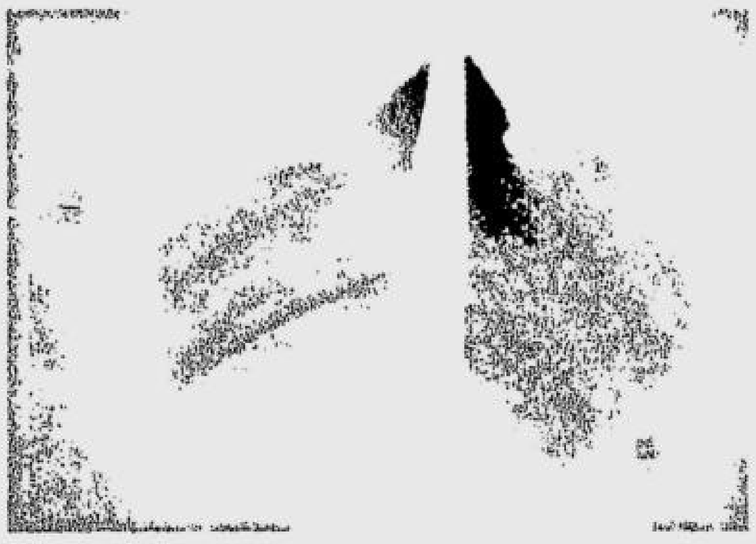
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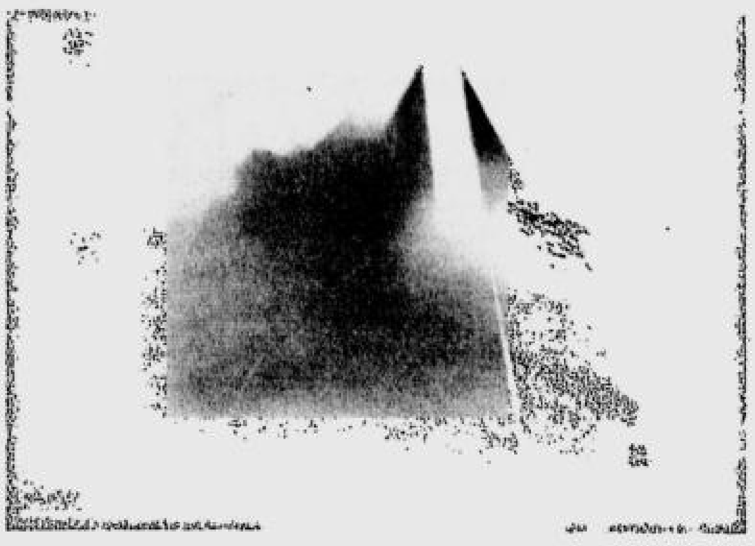
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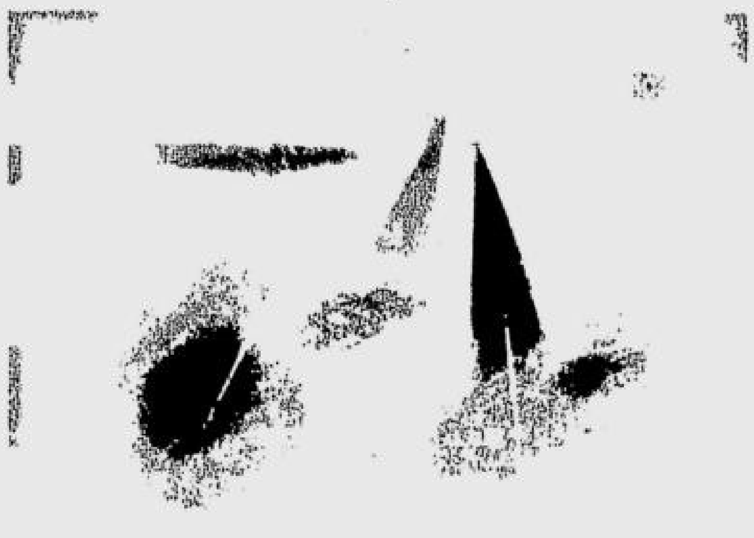
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The art of Zen

By Constantino C. Tejero

A LOT of our artists lay claim for their works to being Zen-like, and some critics corroborate a claim when there is none, to the point of trivializing the spirit.

However, only a few are explicitly Zen. That is, the artists are fully aware what they're doing are expressions of this Oriental philosophy.

Two come to mind: Lao Lianben and Alan Rivera. These two may be the only Filipino artists who've been concentrating their works on Zen for years now.

Over a decade ago, Rivera came up with "101 Monks Contemplating the Gospel According to Zen," an installation utilizing river stones, bamboo, old books and rattan splints, at the Alliance Française de Manille.

Five years later, he exhibited in Ayala Museum a series of collages titled "Virtual Landscapes in the Spirit of Zen," consisting of fragments of handmade paper smudged, marked, rubbed and glued on acid-free paper.

The artist confesses to being driven to creation by the Zen spirit of "that wonderful discovery of something that works, that just seems to fit."

With the small collages, for instance, it was in "discovering colored and textural combinations on paper after they had been torn, suddenly harmonizing as new shapes and relative forms."

This was followed by his lovely arrangements of rocks, stones, pebbles and wood in Museo Iloilo, bearing the same title as the collage exhibit's.

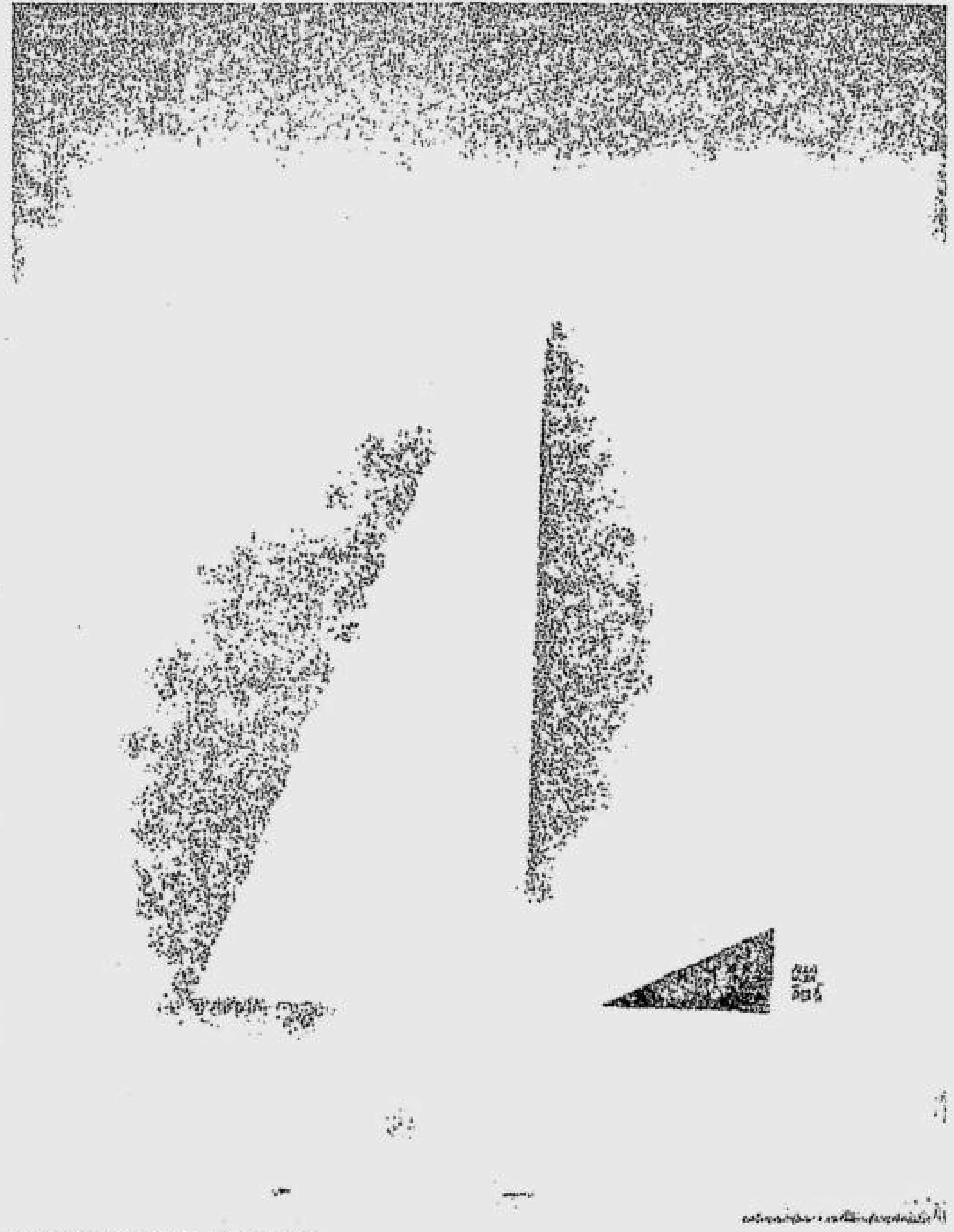
Rivera's latest, "Virtual Landscapes: Spirit of Zen," 16 pieces in pastel on board, is ongoing until June 25 in The Drawing Room, Metrostar Building, 1007 Metropolitan Ave., Makati City.

Hints of shapes

They are patches and swathes of color on exposed paper, the forms defined, outlined or accentuated by white lines of the paper. The thin application of the pastel, the even strokes and delicate lines produce diaphanous abstractions.

"These are not landscapes after all, real or imagined," says the artists. "They can't be. These are abstracts. It's not about mountains and skies, but moments in a particular time, gestures in a particular moment, and a sense of deep breath within a limited space."

These are landscapes of silhouettes and suggestions, in a monochrome of indigo, violet, gray, black, brown. Bright colors appear in only four pieces: "Marks or Images Series 1" (rectangles of red and multicolor scratching); No. 2 (red, yellow and multicolor scratching); No. 3 (diaphanous planes of red, orange, maroon); No. 13 (triangles of yellow, orange, gold).


"MARKS or Images Series 13"

With the color applied in a swipe or undulation, with a few streaks and scratches, it produces hints of shapes: a cubical building (No. 6); sailboats tossed in a tempest (No. 4); a pyramid (No. 7); a cloudy sky (No. 15); a smoggy city (No. 16).

"They are not there in real time," says Rivera. "They exist in the time and space of given parameters, in the singular dimension of paper... The reality that one sees is formed through memory, conditioned by visual reflexes triggered by the recognition of familiar forms."

One of our underappreciated artists, Rivera is also into installation, performance art, sculpture, graphic art, film. He is as laidback as the spirit of Zen moves him.

He took up architecture in the University of Santo Tomas, after two years in the University of the Philippines. In 1972, he was granted the Thirteen Artists award by the Cultural Center of the Philippines, and was cited for his installations using nontraditional materials.

His earliest influences were Malang, Hugo Yonzon, the Tagalog *dibuhistas* such as Nestor Redondo and Francisco V. Coching. Later, he was into Picasso, Cezanne, Jasper Johns, Rauschenberg, Oldenburg, Kenneth Nolan—"people who were pushing," he says.

Art theories

His interest in Zen did not come in a flash, though. As an architecture student, he came to appreciate the Bauhaus artists like Mies van der Rohe. He was fascinated by the Japanese garden. And he was reading Lao-tzu, the Bible, Chinese and Japanese poetry. As early as the early 1970s, he was doing his white-on-white paintings.

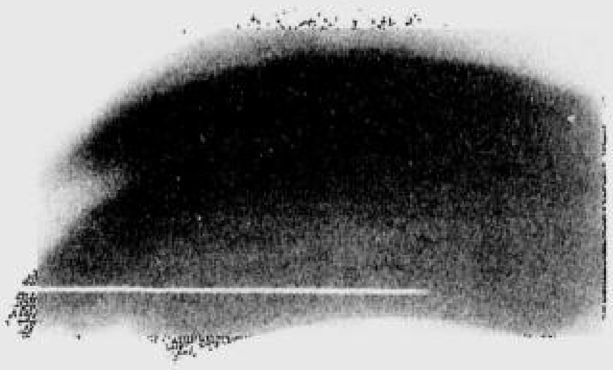
Rivera may be less known than many of his contemporaries, but he seems to be deeper into art theories than most of them.

While doing his Zen pieces, though, he forces himself to be "free of the academic practices one learns, preferring to work instead along key words as guides—*Asian Pacific, accident, Oriental, risk, Pinoy, chance, metric scale*—adapting the *oido* mindset, attuned to the inner rhythms of those silent moments during the process of creating."

The gesture of painting is spontaneous, he says, and he's not aware he's doing something. As preparation, he listens to music such as the songs of Leonard Cohen and world music.

"In Zen, you're cleansing yourself, you're looking for your center," says Rivera. "Your art-making is not deliberate, as it is with traditional art. *Dumaan ka na d'yan sa* composition, drawing, color..."

That just about explains the technique, style and meaning of these artworks. Zen, after all, is stripping layer by layer, until one has shed all surfaces and what only remains is the essential spirit within, pure and shining.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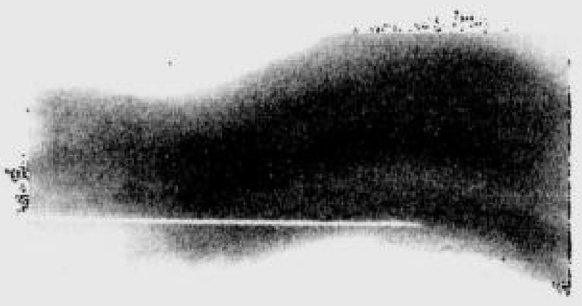
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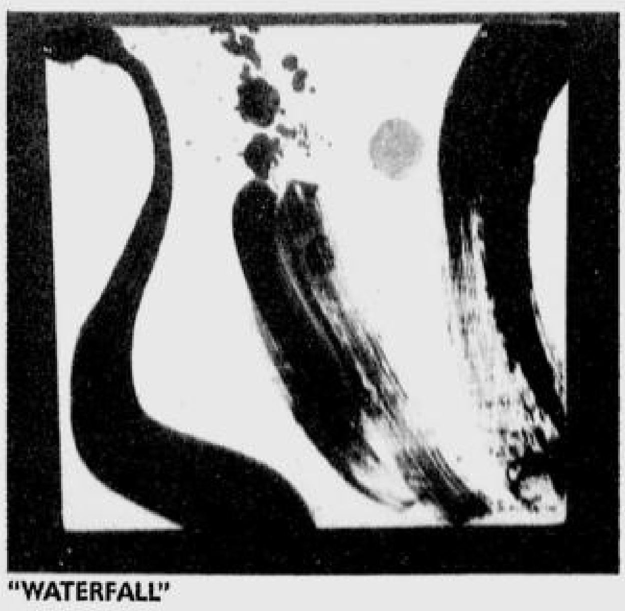
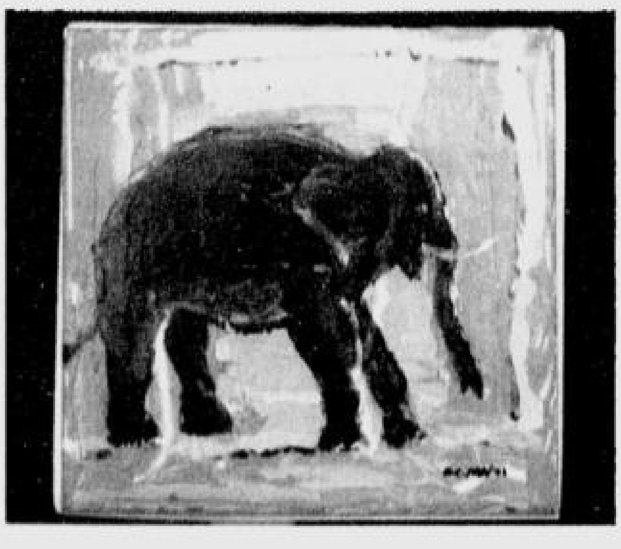

"WATERFALL"


"STRONG But Gentle"

tried pencil on paper, and charcoal.

It was only recently he started experimenting with painting on ceramic. He plans to study pottery.

A new art

He actually started with Chinese calligraphy, as a child in Sun Yat-Sen Elementary School in Surigao and through Grace Christian High School in Quezon City. Then he took up a short course in Chinese painting and calligraphy in Taiwan, where he was named best artist of his class.

Artists that appeal to him include Rembrandt, Van Gogh, Hidalgo, Lao Lianben.

This young man may go into abstraction or academic art, but it is the elegant calligraphic painting that's likely to make his reputation in the local art scene.

It may look ancient, but blending calligraphy and painting on ceramic makes it a new art, therefore, exciting. The economy of means is fascinating.

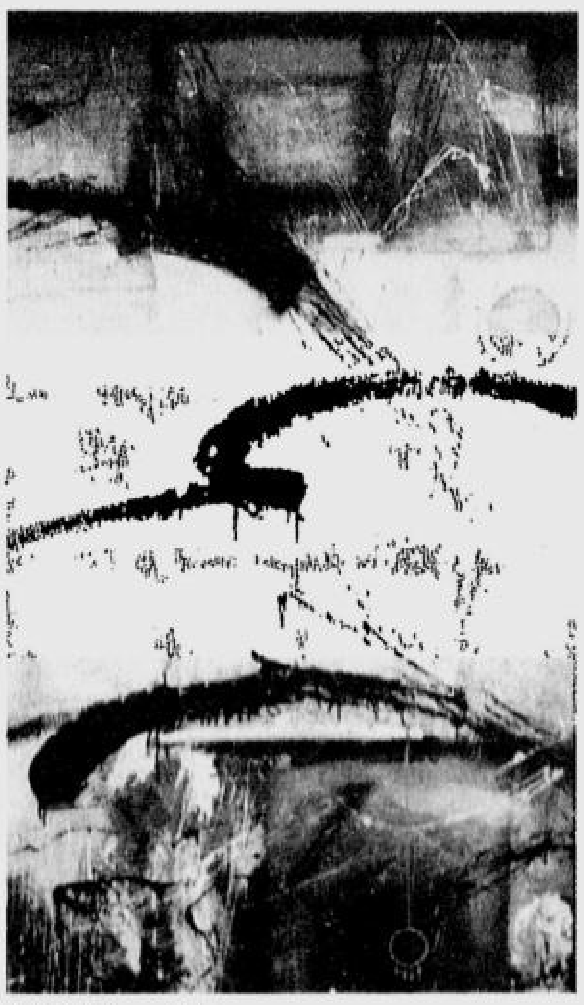
Witness how Tan did it particularly in "Light in Darkness," "Waterfall" and "Head That Works." In the first, with one downward stroke of white acrylic on the left of the black canvas, he suggests running water.

In the second, with three broad strokes of black ceramic paint on white tile, he releases a waterfall. And in the third, with a triangle and a dot, there is your fish.

Calligraphic painting then is the visual equivalent of the haiku. It looks and feels so Zen.

Constantino C. Tejero

Carlo Magno turns to abstractionism


"FOUR Elements"

CARLO Magno opens his 15th one-man exhibit at Galerie Joaquin tomorrow at 7 p.m. Titled "Transformation," this is Magno's first major exhibit for this decade.

The show features 30 major works characterized either by Magno's exuberant and rich colors or almost Zen-like black-and-white.

Dubbed as "a Filipino master of light" by art critics and peers, Magno leaps to abstractionism with many of the elements and skills he learned in realism. These include his use of direct and indirect lighting, light intensity as focal point, contrast, composition, harmony and creative use of horizon.

Invited guests are Spanish Ambassador Ignacio Sagaz, Javier Galvan of the Instituto Cervantes, Dr. Christiane Hamacher, Lor Calma, Felino Palafox Jr., Ramon Antonio, Dennis Villareal, Dr. Salvador de Leon.

A product of the Philippine Women's University's School of Fine Arts, Magno draws from the strong and bold textures of the gestural abstractionism of Spanish artists Antoni Tàpies, Luis Feito and Manolo Millares, as well as the Eastern abstractionism of Japanese artists such as Kenzo Okada and Saito.

Galerie Joaquin is at 2/F, 371 P. Guevarra St. corner Montessori Lane, Addition Hills, San Juan. Call 723-9253 or 0917-4920076.

BEST COPY AVAILABLE

Alternative art goes retail

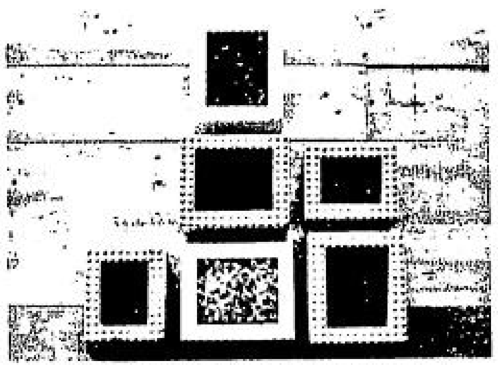
By Jessica Jalandoni-Robillos
Contributor

ON AN OTHERWISE busy restaurant and business edifice-lined street in Bel-Air, Makati, a UFO has been sighted. Though not of the kind that makes scientists take notice. It is actually a grounded version of a Soho bric-a-brac shop.

UFO can stand for whatever you wish. Perhaps Unauthorized Functional Objects will do, as its invitation is for people to come in to sample alternative items and objects.

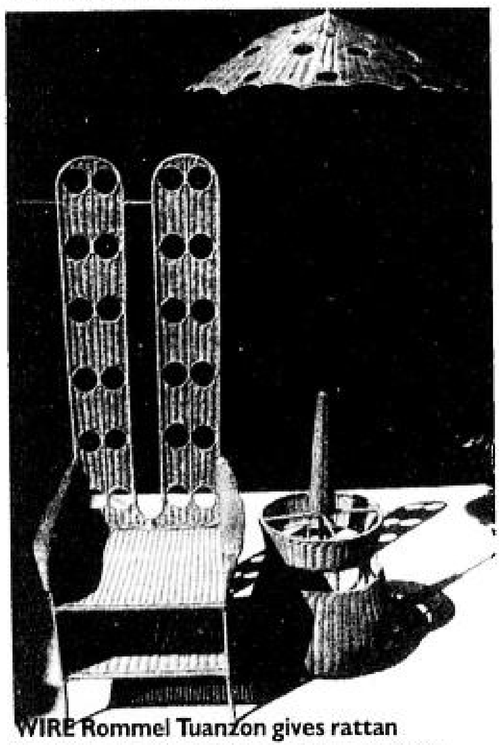
The place exudes a quiet air and allows you to just be and enjoy what is being offered.

Entering UFO is like picking the brain of scriptwriter Raymond Lee, whose brainchild it is. All items found in the shop are conversation pieces. Evidence that Lee not only culls dialogue from real-life verbal exchange but subconsciously seeks to provoke that which he thrives on, be they exclamations of delight, awe, amazement and even shock.



MARIA Taniguchi's "Mr. Bogus, a series of Lego blocks cast in fine plaster or cement, marries pleasurable aesthetics with honest to goodness function."

The art pieces of Raymond Lee and friends are for sale in the one-of-a-kind store-cum-gallery UFO



WIRE Rommel Tuanzon gives rattan furniture design a fresh and wonderfully whimsical spin with "Fortress" (chair) and "Water Bearer" (umbrella rack).

JOHNNY Alcazaren's "Yaki Lamp," used cup noodles resurrected as lampshade on chopstick legs, is recycling at its most inventive.

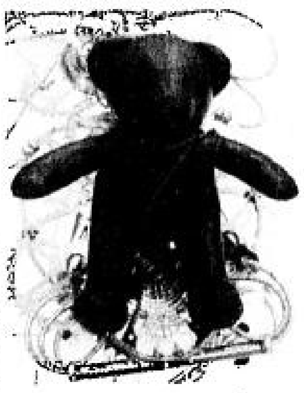
The definition of UFO as a place of "lifestyle innovations" merges function with the novelty of owning artist-made objects, with price tags far from those of paintings.

Selling artwork is difficult even for artists who create cutting-edge material. Thus, Lee and the roster of artists who feature their designs in UFO jokingly refer to this venture as their livelihood project. A form of sustenance to tide them through the less-than-brisk patronage in the galleries.

Several attempts along the "art for all" vein have been made by various groups and entities, but, always, they are confined to paintings and sculptures.

In UFO's case, the aim is to vanquish the elitist aura of art by enabling the most number of those interested from just appreciating to actually acquiring and owning a coveted piece.

The mix in UFO is truly eclectic. The titles give distinct personality to each object. The fondness for using recycled materials is prominent.



MEET "Boom-Boom," a teddy bear in black leatherette—the first in the aptly named "Bomba! Dolls" series designed by Christina Dy for UFO.

Among the displays are bags made from aluminum juice packs in support of a community livelihood project. Designs such as messenger bags and ladies' clutches are versions exclusive to the store.

Wire Rommel Tuason's designs certainly offer an alternative to run-of-the-mill rattan furniture. "Fortress," a seat with 4-ft-long backrest, is grand in an ethnic-majestic sense, fit to be a throne.

The matching umbrella rack with hanging hooks along its spine is fittingly crowned by an umbrella-shaped top, accented ironically with the same circular openings that run up the backrest of the chair.

Engelbert Chan's clock is actually an overturned pizza tray with rice-shaped carved wood for its numbers. His long bench has pinstons for legs, characteristic of his works.

Johnny Alcazaren scores with his bronze, green-canopied lamp. Catchy is the witty irony in a metal plate label that declares itself as "Inadequate Light."

The brothers Jef and Bin Samonte also fully utilize recycled materials.

In Jef's "Sound Reservoir," a bamboo water jug with a silver-plated faucet houses a heater coil. From this, a wire rack is meant to hold CDs protected by an inverted mineral water container.

Bin's "Hot Seat" is an antique swivel chair, its seat replaced by tin tray as charcoal pit and a refrigerator rack on which to grill.

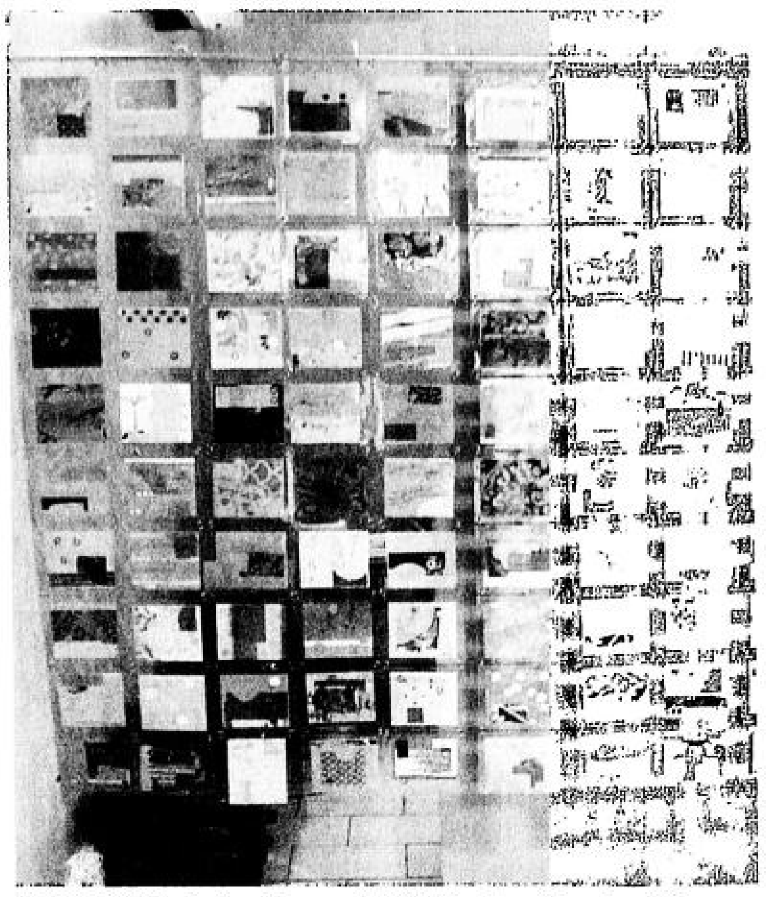
Using bicycle parts and various stainless surplus to build tables and lamps, Lirio Salvador's wares seem to have stepped out of a Tim Burton movie. "Lamesa ni Siva" is made of cogs and wheels, which allow for movement to conveniently serve food or simply display anything.

Geraldine Javier's signature collages are miniaturized and laminated as panels of columns linked by stainless steel hoops. The columns, placed side by side through a steel pole, result in a charming curtain divider.

The remarkable detail in Maria Taniguchi's all-purpose boxes is that they are made of bricks of fine plaster or cement, fashioned with megablocks as their moulds. Who would have thought a child's toy would have such a use?

Romeo Forbes' "Bukang Liwayway" is a letter holder and sculpture. Its body of hardwood is dotted with small steel bearings which complement the stainless sticks that protrude above and below.

Mike Muñoz, with what may be considered grunge Ikea, offers "Carmchair." With a flip of its top and a few pushes to secure the structure, the side table doubles as a small seat. It also features a magazine or wine rack revealed with a few pulls on its front and side.



GERALDINE Javier's collage curtain/divider is nothing short of a visual feast.

"Rik-Rik and Tin-Tin" are naughty, anatomically correct dolls. Together with "Boom-Boom," the faceless black faux leather bear, Christina Dy presents her line of "Bomba! Dolls."

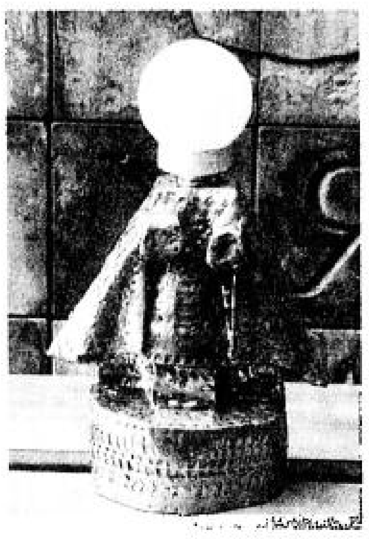
An enlarged positive of a window through which a clear sky is seen, backed by fluorescent light and box-framed, is Ringo Bunoan's illusion of a perpetually sunny day even if it is 3 a.m. or a storm is raging outside.

Though novel, what one finds in this character of a shop may not suit everyone. Much like the lines in a script that raise eyebrows, make jaws drop, or elicit confusion, the choices would definitely be personal.

To follow are other items such as clothing and other things for the home, or simply stuff to have fun with. Several artists are currently preparing their contributions to propagating the alternative lifestyle via this store.

Alas, it is but a sighting, as the shop will disappear from view end of July, while its new home is being prepared. It will be visible again when its new doors open sometime in August. Meantime, it should not be missed.

UFO is located at 150 Jupiter St., Bel-Air, Makati City. Call 899-2704 or (0917) 925-7367.



"LIGHT for the Sinful Soul," a lamp made by Wire Rommel Tuazon from an unfinished Sto. Niño sculpture by his late father, is also a treasure chest of paradoxes—irreverent but lovingly rendered, cheeky yet quietly contemplative.

Encore, Mayor Atienza!

From page E1

(HCS) joined forces with City Hall in the refurbishment of the Liwasang Bonifacio in front of the Manila Post Office.

The City Architect of Manila and the HCS redesigned the park by maximizing its green area and framing views of the heritage Post Office building with a parallel row of towering palms.

A central fountain was added. Benches installed along paved walkways made the park more people-friendly.

Judging by the increasing number of visitors in the park, the redesign has been a success.

A year later, Mayor Atienza took the Liwasang Bonifacio redesign as the template for his transformation of what used to be a no-man's land by the bay, Roxas Boulevard.

Giving credit where it is absolutely due, I congratulate Mayor Atienza for his success in the new Roxas Boulevard. After Roxas Boulevard, give us an encore, Mayor Atienza.

Change

What a change the place has gone through. The narrow stretch between Roxas Boulevard and the Bay is no longer the barren, dusty strip of land that we used to know.

Mayor Atienza and the City Architect's Office have cleaned up, landscaped, and lighted up the entire area from the US embassy in Ermita all the way to the Manila Yacht Club in Malate.

There are now more green areas. Newly paved pathways have become a delight to strollers and joggers. Benches line the pathways and provide an unobstructed view of Manila Bay.

The Rajah Sulayman Park in front of Malate Church is a high point in the Roxas Boulevard development.

The redesign of the park provides a clean visual connection between Malate Church and Manila Bay. It is also the main pedestrian crossing point from one side of Roxas Boulevard to the other.

Food is such a national preoccupation, and it has become available on Roxas Boulevard. Sidewalk cafés, filled with people at all times of the day, serve coffee, *merienda*, lunch and dinner.

Take a look at the people enjoying the park. They are everywhere, walking around, jogging or bicycling, sitting alone or with families and friends on the benches, looking at the view, watching their children run around, and fishing in solitude.

Seeing so many people enjoying the park shows that something has been done right. The city has finally provided a place for its stressed-out residents to decompress.

Appreciation

Most of all, the park shows that Manileños appreciate a good thing like the new Roxas Boulevard. Perhaps as a sign of appreciation, there is little evidence of vandalism anywhere in the park.

Although there are architectural reservations against some of the elements in the Roxas Boulevard development, the fact that people have responded to it with great enthusiasm is proof enough of its success and critical vindication.

The Liwasang Bonifacio and Roxas Boulevard renovations should prove that pollution-bound Manileños are hungry for open-air places. The popularity of these two parks shows the need for more open parks in central Manila.

It is really all about improving the quality of life in Manila. The mayor made Roxas Boulevard people-friendly, as what he and the HCS had done to Liwasang Bonifacio.

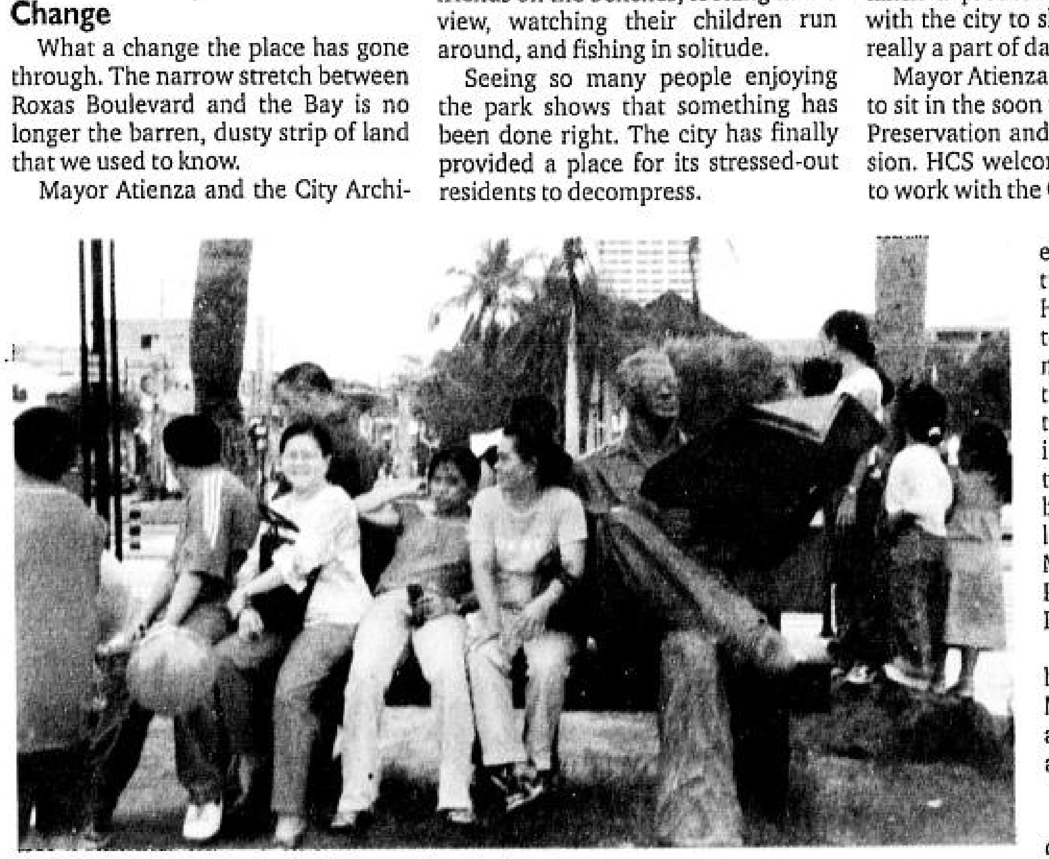
Heritage is mostly about improving the quality of life. And to improve the quality of life in Manila, the HCS has taken a proactive stand in working with the city to show that heritage is really a part of daily living.

Mayor Atienza has invited the HCS to sit in the soon to be formed Manila Preservation and Historical Commission. HCS welcomes the opportunity to work with the City of Manila.

In fact, the Mayor expects a long relationship with the HCS. He recently told HCS chair Gemma Cruz Araneta that the HCS Secretariat must remain in its present location in a heritage building that belongs to the City of Manila, the Museo Pambata on Roxas Boulevard.

The Museo Pambata itself is one of Manila's shining examples of successful architectural reuse.

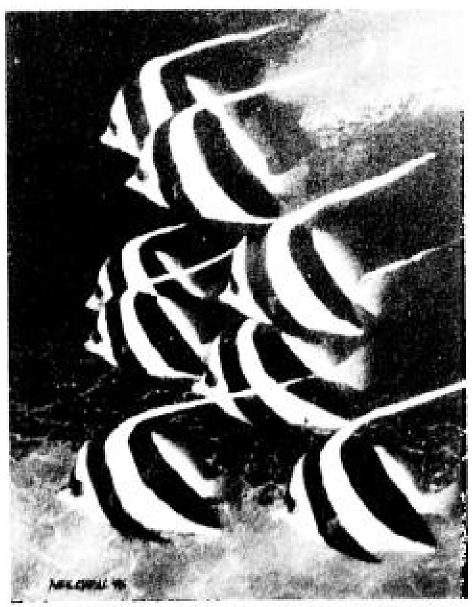
E-mail the author at afvillalon@hotmail.com



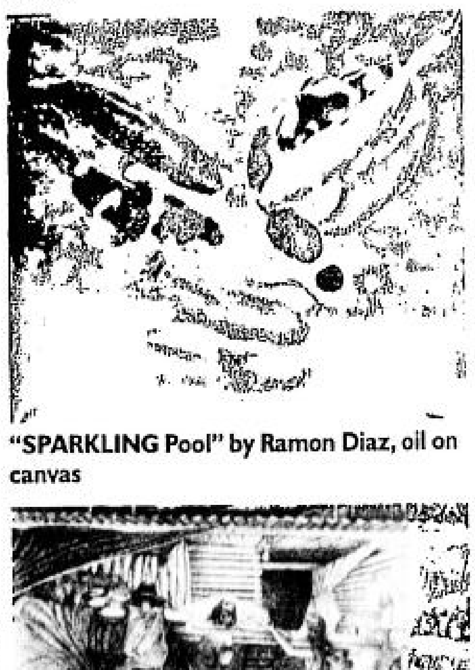
HANGING out with cult hero Mayor Arsenio Lacson.

Montemayor and Manalang at West, Victoriano and Salubaybay at Kulay Diwa

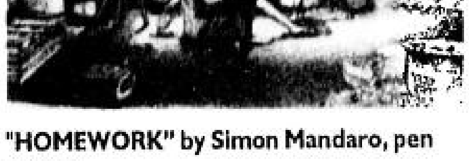
VISUAL ARTS



"PARADE of Banners" by Neil Caral, oil on canvas



"SPARKLING Pool" by Ramon Diaz, oil on canvas



"HOMEWORK" by Simon Mandaro, pen and ink

WEST Gallery at SM Megamall features "Loaded" by Ferdie Montemayor. The exhibit, which will run on June 26-July 8, features a polyptich panoramic piece as well as large and small-scale works.

WEST Gallery presents Pep Manalang's "Brush Mind" until July 1. The artist uses dry brush strokes and watery acrylic washes as well as some impasto in her abstract works. West Gallery is on the 3/L Glorietta 4, Ayala Center, Makati. Call 752-7028/7029.

TWO exhibits opened simultaneously at Kulay Diwa Art Galleries: Ian Victoriano's "Taumariu's Daughter," a series of abstract and semi-abstract works inspired by the Tingguian myth of the Great Flood, and Don Salubayba's "Biomorphic (Hugis-Tao)," a visual presentation of man's struggle to define himself. Kulay Diwa is located at 25 Lopez Ave., Lopez Village, Sucat, Parañaque City. Call 826-0574 or e-mail kulaydiwa@hotmail.com.

IVI Avellana-Cosio's "Floriade" will open on July 2 at Le Soufflé Bistro, Wynsum Corporate Plaza, Ruby Road, Ortigas Center, Pasig City, tels. 636-1614 and 634-8971. Exhibit is on view until July 31.

GALERIA de las Islas features "Bahaghari" by the Bahaghari Los Baños Group of Artists until July 5. The exhibit showcases still life and landscapes in oil on canvas. Galeria de las Islas is at the 3/F, Silahis Center, 744 Gen. Luna St., Intramuros, Manila. Call 527-2113.

GALLERIA Duemila presents Ramon Diaz's "Colored Waters" until July 13 at the 4/L SM Megamall A. Call 831-9990.

THE DRAWING Room showcases Bob Nuestro's works in "Felt Compositions" until June 25. The Drawing Room is located at GF Metrostar Building, 1007 Metropolitan Avenue, Makati. Call 897-7877/6990.

SYANO Artlink presents "Harana" by Anthony Fermin. Syano Artlink is located at 19 Shanghai St., Better Living Subdivision, Parañaque.

LINYA Gallery in Iligan City showcases "Agi sa Tinta" by Chico Barretto and Simon Mindaro. The two exhibits pen and ink drawings until July 18.